On November 16, 2010, at approximately 9:30 am, a fire occurred at Sims Metal Management located at 300 20th Street, San Francisco. Sims Metal is a metal recycling transfer facility that recycles metal home appliances such as washing machines, refrigerators and water heaters.

The fire started in the southeast corner of the facility in a cone shaped metal scrap pile containing metal, foam insulation, and plastics. The fire was limited to a small portion of the approximately twenty (20) feet high by thirty (30) feet diameter pile.

The San Francisco Fire Department responded to the fire at approximately 9:45 am and extinguished the fire by 10:30 am. Winds were North/North West at approximately 9 mph. The fire department reported no injuries and did not issue a shelter in place alert for downwind areas. Although the facility is located in a light industrial area, there were residents who reported smoke impacts in a residential area located approximately 2 miles downwind. The Air District received two air pollution complaints related to this incident.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.