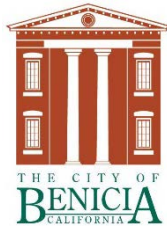




BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Air District part of multi-agency investigation into large Valero Refinery incident

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is working with Solano County Police, Fire and Health departments, Benicia Police and Fire departments, the Solano County Hazardous Materials Unit, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Air Resources Board on a multi-agency investigation into the incident that occurred today at the Valero Refinery in Benicia, California.

A power outage this morning at approximately 6:45 am caused an incident that resulted in flaring at the facility. The incident was reported by the refinery to the Air District at 7:20 am. Heavy smoke from the flaring prompted local authorities to implement small scale evacuations and a shelter-in-place in the immediate vicinity downwind of the refinery before 8 am. The Air District joined local, state and federal agencies in response to this incident.

“The Air District was notified by Valero this morning about the power outage and incident and we immediately sent area inspectors to the facility as part of this multi-agency effort to investigate the situation,” said Wayne Kino, director of enforcement for the Bay Area Air District. “The investigation is active and will likely continue for several months to determine the cause.”

Valero is actively working to correct the problems that led to the flaring.

Flares are found at all Bay Area refineries and are safety devices that burn pollutants that would otherwise be directly released to the atmosphere. Flaring may result from the start-up and shutdown of units or during accidents or upsets.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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