



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District issues two violations to Sims Metal Management

Investigation continues following recent fire at Richmond facility

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today that two notices of violation have been issued to Sims Metal Management for the January 30 fire at the company’s scrap metal facility in Richmond.

The notices of violation include one public nuisance violation and one illegal open burning violation.

“The Air District is continuing to investigate this incident for all potential air quality violations in collaboration with Contra Costa County Health Services and other agencies,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Together with our partner agencies, we will fully investigate the cause to prevent fires like these from occurring in the future.”

On Tuesday, January 30, fire broke out in a large scrap metal pile around 5 p.m. at the Richmond facility. Heavy black smoke from the fire resulted in air quality complaints from local residents and local authorities issuing road closures, limited evacuations, and a shelter-in-place for areas around the fire. Air District staff collected air samples that indicated elevated air pollution levels in the area closest to the fire. Fines and penalties are under review and will be levied on a future date.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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