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## **Air District issues air quality advisory due to flaring at Chevron Refinery**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air District is closely monitoring flaring at the **Chevron Refinery in Richmond** and has issued an air quality advisory as localized smoke impacts are possible near and downwind of the facility, including the Contra Costa County cities of Richmond, San Pablo, Pinole and Hercules, as well as Solano County. This is based on current meteorological conditions which can change depending on the duration of the flaring.

### **Residents should follow instructions from local health officials.**

The Air District is working with first responders to advise them on meteorology and air quality issues relating to the incident. Inspectors are on site investigating the incident, responding to public complaints and documenting any violations of air quality regulations. Once the investigation is complete, an incident report will be posted on this webpage: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/about-air-quality/incidents-and-advisories>.

Smoke from -flaring contains fine particulate matter and other harmful pollutants. Exposure to smoke is unhealthy, even for short periods of time. It is important that Bay Area residents protect their health by avoiding exposure. If possible, **and if temperatures allow**, stay inside with windows and doors closed until smoke levels subside. Set car vent systems to re-circulate to prevent outside air from moving inside. The use of indoor air filtration can also help reduce smoke exposure.

Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a dry scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from asthma, emphysema or COPD. Elderly persons, children and individuals with respiratory illnesses are particularly susceptible to elevated air pollution levels and should take extra precautions to avoid exposure.

Check the U.S. EPA's Fire and Smoke Map to see if smoke is affecting your area at: <https://fire.airnow.gov/>.

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

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