



## Compliance and Enforcement Division

### INCIDENT REPORT

**Berkeley Asphalt Co. (Site # A0123)  
699 Virginia St. Berkeley, CA 94710**

**March 23, 2018**

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On March 23, 2018 at approximately 9:42 a.m., a two-alarm fire started at the Berkeley Asphalt Co. located at 699 Virginia Street, between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets in Berkeley, California. The facility is a hot mix asphalt batch plant. Air District staff arrived on scene at 9:54 a.m. Responding agencies included 4 engines and a ladder truck from the Berkeley Fire Department, Berkeley Police Department and crews from the Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

No Shelter-In-Place was issued, but streets were closed to traffic between Cedar Street to the north and Virginia Street to the south, from the frontage road along the Eastshore Freeway Interstate 80 west of the plant to Fourth Street on the east side. Also, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks running north and south just on the east side of the facility were closed as a precaution so firefighters could lay down firehoses. As a result, train service was delayed.

Winds were light from the south-southwest at 1-3 mph and the black smoke plume drifted over the industrial and residential area located north of the plant. The fire department extinguished the fire and it was out by 10:22 a.m. The railroad line was re-opened at 10:49 a.m. and trains returned to regular service. No injuries were reported and no complaints were received by the Air District. The fire occurred during startup of the plant in the area of the hot asphalt storage tanks.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. Air District staff will continue to investigate this incident to determine if there are any violations of Air District regulations.