



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

## Compliance and Enforcement Division

### INCIDENT REPORT

**Shell Martinez Refinery (Site# A0011)  
3485 Pacheco Boulevard, Martinez, CA 94553**

**July 6, 2018**

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On July 6, 2018, at around 2:30 am, Shell Martinez Refinery (Shell) had a compressor fire at its Hydrocracker Unit that required an immediate shutdown of the unit. As a result, Shell reported a Level 1 Incident to Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) for the flaring expected from the downstream Light Oil Processing (LOP) flare.

However, during the shutdown process, Shell staff discovered the pilots on the LOP flare were extinguished and failed to re-ignite. In anticipation of non-combusted gas emissions from the flare and the potential for offsite odor impacts, Shell raised the CWS to a Level 2, which resulted in a public health advisory from the Contra Costa County Health Department.

Air District inspection staff (staff) arrived on scene at 4:45 am. Staff did not observe any odors downwind of the facility. Shell informed staff that the Hydrocracker Unit had been depressurized and that gas was no longer going to the LOP Flare. At 8:45 am, with the LOP flare pilots restored and the flare operational, Contra Costa County Health Department lifted the Level 2 Health Advisory.

The Air District received no complaints from the neighboring community during the incident. Staff confirmed Shell did not receive any calls from the community and that there were no readings recorded on the refinery's downwind ground level monitors in excess of the regulatory standards for hydrogen sulfide or sulfur dioxide. The winds at the time of the fire were from the NW at approximately 10 mph.

Air District staff will continue to monitor the situation and investigate this incident to determine if there were any violations of Air District regulations.