

## Compliance and Enforcement Division

## INCIDENT REPORT

February 1, 2025

(Updated February 6, 2025)

MRC Refinery, Site # A0011

3485 Pacheco Boulevard Martinez, California

On February 1, 2025, at around 10:45 a.m., Bay Area Air District (Air District) received its first complaint about an oily refinery smell in Martinez, CA. A second odor complaint was received at 11:56 a.m., alleging the Martinez Refining Company. At 1:05 p.m., the Air District received a third odor complaint, alleging oil and gas smell. At 1:45 p.m., the Air District had already initiated an incident response to these complaints.

At 1:49 p.m., the Air District received a Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) Level 2 alert filed by MRC regarding a fire in the Light Oil Processing (LOP) area of the refinery. The Air District contacted MRC and dispatched staff to the area to assess the situation. It was learned that a large fire was burning in the LOP area and flaring was also occurring.

Incident Response staff arrived in the area around 2:20 p.m. and observed a large black plume and flames from the affected process unit. Visible emissions were observed to be in excess of Air District Regulation 6, Rule 1 standards. Wind at the time was 5-15 mph from the south. Air District staff were in communication with MRC and Contra Costa County Health Department throughout the event.



Around 5:00 p.m., Contra County Health increased the CWS Level 2 warning to Level 3. As of 7:30 p.m., Air District staff received and responded to 30 complaints from the community which were alleging odors and smoke related to the incident. Reports at this time from the refinery indicate that the source of the fuel for the fire has been isolated, and the fire is considerably smaller in size. Winds were expected to remain from the south throughout the evening.

### Update February 6, 2025

As a result of the incident, the Air District has currently issued three Notices of Violation to MRC refinery for public nuisance, failure to operate equipment as permitted and excessive smoke and soot fallout. These violations reflect the impact of the fire on air quality and the surrounding community.

### Update March 25, 2025

Investigations continue into potential violations to air quality regulations. One Notice of Violation was issued to MRC refinery for visible emissions and not having a flare out of view to observe visible emissions during flaring events.

### Update May 1, 2025

Investigations of possible violations are proceeding with an additional eighteen (18) Notices of Violation issued to MRC refinery for violations that occurred during the February 1 incident.

Links to the Notices of Violation issued to MRC during this event can be found in the list of resources below.

The Air District's investigation of this event is ongoing, and we will provide additional updates when we have further information.

#### Resources:

- [Air Quality Advisory](#)
- [Incident Report](#)
- [Notices of Violation](#) – February 2025
- [Contra Costa County 72-Hour Report](#)
- [30-Day Report](#)
- [Notices of Violation – May 2025](#)

The Air District will update this summary as additional information becomes available.