

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

February 1, 2025

MRC Refinery, Site # A0011

3485 Pacheco Boulevard Martinez, California

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.

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