

Compliance and Enforcement Division
INCIDENT REPORT

July 23, 2025

Valero Refinery, Site #B2626
3400 East 2nd Street, Benicia, California

On Wednesday July 23, 2025, at 6:15 am, Valero Refinery Company (Valero) in Benicia had an equipment malfunction that resulted in significant flaring activity from the North and South Yard flares. At 8:19am, Air District staff arrived at Valero and observed significant flaring from two flares and a black plume of smoke coming from a separate furnace stack. Visible emissions from the furnace stack were determined to be in excess of Air District Regulation 6, Rule 1 standards. The wind at the time was approximately 10 mph from the Southwest.

The Benicia Fire Department issued a Level 1 Notification, at 8:39am for residents in Benicia. Valero informed the Air District that flaring occurred from approximately 6:15am to 11:00am. Air District staff arrived onsite that the flaring ceased at 11:00am.

Air District staff received and responded to four complaints from the Benicia community. The complaints alleged flaring, smoke and significant vibrations related to the incident.

The Air District is continuing to analyze data from our air monitors as well as other air monitors near the refinery.



Air district staff documented one visible emissions violation. For more information on any Notices of Violation (NOV) that may be issued, please refer to the [NOV web tool](#) on the Air District website.

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