

Compliance and Enforcement Division
INCIDENT REPORTMarch 26, 2026: Updated June 4, 2026
Valero Refinery, Site #B2626
3400 East 2nd Street, Benicia, California

On Thursday, March 26, 2026, Valero Refining Company (Valero) in Benicia had visible emissions from the Acid Gas Flare stack. The Air District staff arrived at Valero and observed strong sulfur and natural gas odors. The wind at the time was approximately 5 miles per hour from the East Southeast.

The release occurred at 10:19 a.m. Air District staff arrived on site and confirmed odors starting from 10:40am. Air District staff received and responded to 14 complaints from Benicia which alleged odors and smoke related to the incident. The Air District continues to investigate the cause and impacts of the release and closely monitor the surrounding community.

At 11:30 am, the Benicia Fire Department issued a Voluntary Shelter in Place Warning for residents in Benicia. The Voluntary Shelter In Place Warning was lifted at 02:02 p.m.

The Air District has been coordinating efforts with Benicia Fire Department and Solano County Health. Air District staff is continuing to analyze data near the refinery and along the path of the release. Review of the ground-level monitors did not show any excesses of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide above regulatory standards. Fenceline monitoring also indicated levels remained below reference exposure levels.

The Air District issued two Notices of Violation (NOV) to Valero for public nuisance and excessive visible emissions. For more information on any NOVs that were issued, please refer to the NOV web tool on the Air District website. Valero has submitted a 72-Hour Report to the City of Benicia (City) that describes the event in further detail. The 72-Hour report can be accessed on the City's Incidents webpage at, www.ci.benicia.ca.us/publicinfobank. The Air District's investigation of this event is ongoing.

