



## Compliance and Enforcement Division

# INCIDENT REPORT

**Chevron Refinery (Site #A0010)  
841 Chevron Way  
Richmond, California  
August 6, 2012**

On August 6, 2012 at approximately 6:15 PM, a hydrocarbon leak caused a fire in the #4 Crude Unit at the Distillation and Reforming Division of the Chevron Richmond Refinery. At the time of the incident, a maintenance crew was investigating the leak while the Crude Unit was in operation. Material leaked out of the line and ignited a fire in the plant, resulting in continuous flaring and a large plume of black smoke which moved in a north easterly direction.

Chevron reported a Level 3 incident (offsite impacts) under the Contra Costa Community Warning System at 6:37 PM. A shelter in place was called in Richmond, North Richmond, San Pablo and San Rafael. A health advisory was extended to El Cerrito and Kensington. Three Chevron employees were slightly injured and treated onsite.

The feed line was cut to the Crude Unit, and the Chevron Fire Department (CFRE) responded to the fire by pushing steam and nitrogen into the column(s) and continued to spray the exterior with water. Contaminated fire water was routed to the wastewater separators and treated in Chevron's effluent system. Processes downstream of the #4 Crude Unit have ceased.

Air District Inspectors, Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) staff, Richmond Fire Department, and U.S. EPA also responded to the incident. Mutual Aid units were deployed from other Bay Area Refineries. The CCHS monitored for SO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, and volatiles throughout the night and detected "non-detect" levels in surrounding areas.

SO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations at Chevron's Ground Level Monitors (GLM) and the District's Air Monitoring Stations were below regulated levels. Eight ambient air samples were collected downwind of the refinery for analysis. Most of the samples have been analyzed as of the time of this report and results indicate no pollutants in excess of levels found in ambient air. The District received five air pollution complaints for smoke. The District also received several inquiries regarding health issues which were referred to the Contra Costa Health Services.

Smoke was no longer observed at the Crude Unit as of 9:15 PM on August 6; the primary fire was extinguished by 7:15 AM on August 7, 2012. The Shelter in Place was lifted at approximately 11:30 PM. The District is continuing to investigate the incident to determine the root cause of the fire and any potential violation of District Regulations.