



Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

**ECS Refining (A1658)
705 Reed Street
Santa Clara, California
March 10, 2010**

On March 10, 2010 at approximately 12:30 PM, a fire occurred at the ECS Refining facility, located at 705 Reed St., Santa Clara, California. ECS Refining specializes in recycling electronic (e)-waste such as printed circuit boards, computers, and monitors as well as processing waste from the photographic industry. It is located in a light industrial area of Santa Clara.

The Santa Clara, Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara County Fire Departments responded to the fire at approximately 12:45 PM and closed Reed Street from De La Cruz Boulevard to Lafayette Street. Winds were from the northwest at approximately 5-10 mph. Dense, black, acrid smoke, visible for miles in the Santa Clara Valley, resulted in a "Shelter in Place" until approximately 4:00 PM for nearby residents and businesses downwind of the facility. The Shelter in Place covered the area bounded by Lafayette St. to the west, De La Cruz Blvd. to the east, Reed St. to the North and El Camino Real to the south. No injuries or hospitalizations were reported. The Air District received two air pollution complaints related to this incident. District Inspectors obtained an upwind, and two downwind air canister samples, which will be analyzed for toxic air contaminants.

The four-alarm fire started at approximately 12:30 PM in an outdoor lot area where pallets of e-scrap materials were stored. These pallets held the separated and sorted components of electronic scrap and were awaiting shipment off-site. The cause of the fire is unknown and under investigation. The fire was contained shortly after the arrival of the fire departments; however the approximate 60 feet by 60 feet area of smoldering waste had to be turned with a back hoe to extinguish any remaining embers underneath, causing intermittent flare ups and smoke plumes throughout the afternoon. Inspection staff did not observe any smoke after 6:30 PM.

District staff will continue to investigate this incident to determine if there were any violations of air quality regulations. This report will be updated as new information becomes available.