From: Allen, HarryL
To: R9_ER List
Subject: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident - update 2
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 3:58:27 PM

Overview:

- At approximately 0615 hours Pacific Time, a power outage at the Valero Refinery in Benicia, CA caused a large, unplanned flaring incident. The power outage was apparently due to activity by the local utility, Pacific Gas & Electric. The refinery continues to be without power.
- The heavy smoke from the flaring caused local authorities to order and implement small scale evacuations and shelter-in-place in Benicia, in the immediate vicinity and downwind of the facility. An unknown number of people were evacuated from a nearby industrial park at 0745 hours.
- Based on monitoring data provided by EPA, Solano County has lifted the mandatory shelter in place for both of the affected schools. The neighborhoods in the vicinity are now under a voluntary shelter in place.
- The industrial park east of the facility is still under mandatory evacuation. The evacuation order will remain in place for the industrial park and police barricades will stay in place to keep people out of the impacted area along the waterfront east of the refinery. Valero says they're having trouble getting their boilers back on line, resulting in continued flaring and heavy, black smoke. They estimate 3-5 hours to get this system back on line (realistically, it may be more than this).
- The Valero Refinery is reporting their initial estimates that 9,403 pounds of material have been released by the flaring.

Federal, State and Local Authority Actions:

- Multiple state and local authorities responded immediately to the incident.
- They include the **Bay Area Air Quality Management District** that deployed a mobile monitoring van with real time SO2 monitoring capability and personnel to take summa canister samples;
- the **California Air Resources Board** which has modeling staff on standby

if needed and is deploying particulate monitors (EBAMS) for PM10 and PM2.5;

- the **Solano County Hazardous Materials Unit** responded at the request of the **Benicia Fire Department**;
- Solano County HazMat is maintaining contact with the Bay Area AQMD and the neighboring Contra Costa County Community Warning System;
- the **California Occupational Safety and Health Administration** is sending staff to the refinery.
- Several roads and highways near the facility have been closed by the **City of Benicia** and the **California Highway Patrol**.

Bay Area AQMD measured the following levels:

Sulfur Dioxide:	500 ppb for 3 minutes
	250 ppb for 60 minutes
	50 ppb for 24 hours
Hydrogen Sulfide:	60 ppb for 30 minutes
	30 ppb for 60 minutes

Solano County authorities are evaluating the information and considering additional actions on the evacuation and shelter-in-place orders.

EPA Actions:

- Region 9 mobilized 2 OSCs - Maggie Waldon and Steve Calanog - and 3 technical assessment contractors to the Unified Command. EPA is deploying hand held monitors for SO2, H2S and particulates at the request of the Bay Area AQMD;
- The Region will maintain its close contact with local and state authorities that are responding.
- At the city's request, EPA will stay and continue air monitoring as the situation develops.
- OSC Calanog spoke at a press conference at approximately 1200 noon with the Benicia Fire Chief and additional conference is planned for 545.
- Immediately prior to the evening press conference, EPA will conduct air

monitoring in the most impacted area, in order to provide current data to the city and county to evaluate and present to the public.

Media Interest

Local media interest is decreasing.