From: Meer, Daniel
To: R9_ER List
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 12:25:17 PM

See yellow highlighted items below for new information.

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From: Meer, Daniel
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 10:53 AM
To: R9_ER List <R9_ER_List@epa.gov>
Subject: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

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. The shelter-in-place orders continue, including two elementary schools (Roberts Temple and Mathew Turner) to the north of the facility. Evacuation advisories, however, have been lifted. Shelter-in-place for schools remains in effect.

- Steady westerly winds appear to be dissipating the thickest plumes of smoke and the smoke and flaring activity appear to be decreasing. However air quality is described as 'bad' with heavy to a severe smell of sulfur dioxide in neighborhoods downwind of the refinery. Ground level fence line monitors at the refinery are showing 5 ppb SO2. No sampling

has occurred as of 1030 hours.

- 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 has 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.
- OSC Calanog spoke at a press conference at approximately 1200 noon with the Benicia Fire Chief.

Media Interest

Local media interest is high.

http://kron4.com/2017/05/05/flaring-at-valero-refinery-in-benicia/

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