From: Diedesch, Jessica@EPA
To: Yvonne.Addassi@wildlife.ca.gov; alabarre@co.slo.ca.us; Alvin Dong; Yang, Teng@DTSC; anna.olekszyk@lacity.org; Taylor, Barbara (CDPH-EPO); Benjamin, Michael@ARB; Bennett, Russ@ARB; Bill Jones; Bohon, James@EPA; Cho Nai Cheung; Colby La Place; Coombe, Amy@DIR; craig.johnson@emsa.ca.gov; Steiner, Cyntia; Dan Starkey; Meer, Daniel; Danny Luong; David Dumais (ddumais@torranceca.gov); Diedesch, Jessica@EPA; Dunwoody, Catherine@ARB; estevenson@baaqmd.gov; Fisher, Laura@Waterboards; gwilley@co.slo.ca.us; Harrah, Jack@CalOES; Howard.Backer@EMSA.CA.GOV; jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov; jcarver@elsegundo.org; Johnstone, Jeremy; Karen Codding; Lawrence, Kathryn; Kevin Beahm; Khaledan, Fariba ; Laki Tisopulos; Larry.Collins@CalOES.ca.gov; Linnea Faulkner; Lynch, Philip@DTSC; Waldon, MARGARET; maria.duazo@hsd.cccounty.us; Matthew Geisert; Mike Oldershaw; Mike Richwine; Nixon, Donald; Pal, Alex@CalOES; Penn, Paul@EPA; Plescia, Jennifer@CalOES; Randy Sawyer; Reed, Marcy@EPA; Richard Clark; Karen Riveles; Royce Long; Solomon, Gina@EPA; ssutherlin@TorranceCA.gov; Steve Koester; Schmidtbauer, Terry (SOLANO COUNTY); Tiedemann, Chris@EPA; Ahrens, Tom (CDPH-EPO); Trombettas, Clyde@DIR; Vlasek, Gregory@ARB; Wayne Kino; Yamamoto, Julie@Wildlife
Subject: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 3:26:03 PM

Greetings IRTF,

Today a power interruption (an all too common occurrence) precipitated an ongoing flaring event at the Valero Benicia refinery shutting down the refinery, requiring some evacuations, issuing of shelter-in-place recommendations, and diverting traffic. Elevated levels of SO2 and H2S were identified.

A Unified Command was established.

A number of Task Force members are actively involved in the response.

In speaking with the USEPA On Scene Coordinator a little after 2 pm, the flaring had diminished but has picked up again.

Part of the email string is below.

I look forward to hearing from Task Force members regarding:

- How the incident and its management evolved
- Areas where communication and coordination worked well and where improvements can be made
- Need of and use of resources
- Ways to prevent future power interruptions

We will continue to monitor the incident and its aftermath.

Regards,

Paul

Paul Penn
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From: Geisert, Matthew [mailto:MGeisert@solanocounty.com]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 12:13 PM
To: Trombettas, Clyde@DIR <CTrombettas@dir.ca.gov>; Penn, Paul@EPA <Paul.Penn@calepa.ca.gov>; Vlasek, Gregory@ARB <gregory.vlasek@arb.ca.gov>; Bohon, James@EPA <James.Bohon@calepa.ca.gov>; estevenson@baaqmd.gov; Wayne Kino <wkino@baaqmd.gov>; Bennett, Russ@ARB <russ.bennett@arb.ca.gov>; Cho Nai Cheung (ChoNai.Cheung@hsd.cccounty.us) <ChoNai.Cheung@hsd.cccounty.us>; Barnum, Alex@EPA <Alex.Barnum@calepa.ca.gov>; Allen, HarryL <Allen.HarryL@epa.gov>; Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>; Waldon, MARGARET (Waldon.Margaret@epa.gov) <Waldon.Margaret@epa.gov>; Watson, Sheryl@EPA <Sheryl.Watson@calepa.ca.gov>; Solomon, Gina@EPA <Gina.Solomon@calepa.ca.gov>; Tiedemann, Chris@EPA <Chris.Tiedemann@calepa.mail.onmicrosoft.com>; Meer, Daniel (Meer.Daniel@epa.gov) <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov>
Cc: Schmidtbauer, Terry (SOLANO COUNTY) <tschmidtbauer@solanocounty.com>; Sahota, Jagjinder@(SOLANO COUNTY) <jssahota@solanocounty.com>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident (Solano County CUPA update)

Solano County CUPA staff are deployed, one at City of Benicia IC, and one with Benicia Fire in the community. Solano County Environmental Health is in contact with US EPA SMART Team, Valero Benicia Refinery IH and Environmental staff, and BAAQMD. Valero has two Ground Level Monitors in the community downwind from the incident and the Sulfur Dioxide and Hydrogen Sulfide readings are detectable but well below the BAAQMD levels. Valero has Boiler operational and has been quenching with steam. The north flare is greatly reduced and the south flare still has black smoke.

The BAAQMD levels are the following:

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 CUPA is the Solano County Public Health Officer's designee and is in discussion with the Acting Health Officer Dr. Stacy regarding the orders for evacuation and shelter in place.

Matthew Geisert

From: Trombettas, Clyde@DIR [mailto:CTrombettas@dir.ca.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Penn, Paul@EPA <Paul.Penn@calepa.ca.gov>; Vlasek, Gregory@ARB <gregory.vlasek@arb.ca.gov>; Bohon, James@EPA <James.Bohon@calepa.ca.gov>; estevenson@baaqmd.gov; Wayne Kino <wkino@baaqmd.gov>; Bennett, Russ@ARB <russ.bennett@arb.ca.gov>; Geisert, Matthew <MGeisert@solanocounty.com>; Cho Nai Cheung (ChoNai.Cheung@hsd.cccounty.us) <ChoNai.Cheung@hsd.cccounty.us>; Barnum, Alex@EPA <Alex.Barnum@calepa.ca.gov>; Allen, HarryL <Allen.HarryL@epa.gov>; Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>; Waldon, MARGARET (Waldon.Margaret@epa.gov) <Waldon.Margaret@epa.gov>; Watson, Sheryl@EPA <Sheryl.Watson@calepa.ca.gov>; Solomon, Gina@EPA <Gina.Solomon@calepa.ca.gov>; Tiedemann, Chris@EPA <Chris.Tiedemann@calepa.mail.onmicrosoft.com>; Meer, Daniel (Meer.Daniel@epa.gov) <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov>; Geisert, Matthew <MGeisert@solanocounty.com>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident (USEPA Update)

This is the latest update as to the power failure at Valero Refinery in Benicia;

- PG&E tripped off power to Valero Refinery, without warning, this morning.
- Co-Generation plant was up and running but only used as emergency power to shutdown refinery (Note. The Co-Generation plant was built in 2003 to supply power to the refinery, but since then the refinery has added processes putting a strain on the CoGen plant)
    - Refinery looking into upgrading Co-Generation plant.
- PG&E Power has been restored
- Refinery is starting back up. All startup procedures are up to date. Should be back up to full capacity by tomorrow morning.
- All emergency procedures worked and operators were able to shut down the refinery without incident (except for flaring, which is a safety system when shutting down and starting up)
- No health and safety incidents/accidents noted.
- Black smoke from flares with stop once steam is back on line.

Since Valero is a VPP site and CSHO's had no concerns to report, we will not be opening an inspection. As to the other agencies….

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From: Penn, Paul@EPA [mailto:Paul.Penn@calepa.ca.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 11:32 AM
To: Vlasek, Gregory@ARB <gregory.vlasek@arb.ca.gov>; Bohon, James@EPA <James.Bohon@calepa.ca.gov>; Trombettas, Clyde@DIR <CTrombettas@dir.ca.gov>; estevenson@baaqmd.gov; Wayne Kino <wkino@baaqmd.gov>; Bennett, Russ@ARB <russ.bennett@arb.ca.gov>; Matthew Geisert <mgeisert@solanocounty.com>; Cho Nai Cheung

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Subject: FW: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident (USEPA Update)

Update below from USEPA. I understand that power has been restored at the refinery.

http://www.ktvu.com/news/252855308-story

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From: Allen, HarryL [mailto:Allen.HarryL@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 11:04 AM
To: Penn, Paul@EPA <Paul.Penn@calepa.ca.gov>; Vlasek, Gregory@ARB <gregory.vlasek@arb.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

FYI

Harry L . Allen
On-Scene Coordinator, Chief
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EPA Region 9
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From: Meer, Daniel
Sent: Friday, May 5, 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.

- 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**.

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.

Media Interest

Local media interest is high.

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

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