



MEDIA ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release
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Valero Refinery sulfur release under investigation

SAN FRANCISCO – At approximately 6 am this morning, the Valero Refinery in Benicia had an incident resulting in the release of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide.

Odors from the release impacted the cities of Benicia, Crockett and Vallejo, as well as parts of Marin County. The hydrogen sulfide odor is typically described as a “rotten egg” odor and sulfur dioxide is characterized as a “burnt match” or “acrid” odor. The Benicia Fire Department and the Air District received more than 100 odor complaints as a result of the release.

As of 8:30 am, odors were dissipating. No shelter-in-place orders were given and the Air District is continuing to investigate the incident.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area. For more information about Spare the Air, visit www.sparetheair.org.

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