



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

**Chevron Richmond Refinery (Site# A0010)
Richmond, CA**

July 27, 2019

On July 27, 2019 at approximately 12:58 PM, the Chevron Richmond Refinery (Chevron) experienced an upset at their Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCC) which led to approximately 20 minutes of flaring activity at the FCC flare. The flaring resulted in a visible flame and black smoke which could be seen by the surrounding community.

Catalytic Cracking is a process in which heavy hydrocarbon molecules are broken down into simpler and lighter molecules under high heat and pressure.

At approximately 4:00 PM, Chevron staff reported that they had mitigated the upset and the FCC unit was stabilized. At this time there is no known cause and Chevron and the Air District have initiated an investigation.

The Air District received 9 complaints from the neighboring community during this incident. Air District inspection staff was on scene until 6:00 pm to monitor the situation and patrol for any offsite impacts. There were no elevated readings recorded on Chevron's ground level monitors for hydrogen sulfide or sulfur dioxide. The winds at the time of the flaring were out of the south/southwest at 0 – 3 mph.

Air District staff will continue to monitor the situation and investigate this incident to determine if any violations of Air District regulations occurred.

