

Compliance and Enforcement Division
(Updated 11/29/23)
INCIDENT REPORT
November 27, 2023
Chevron Refinery, Site # A0010
841 Chevron Way
Richmond, California

November 27, 2023

At 3:42 pm the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) received a Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) Level 1 alert filed by Chevron regarding an unplanned flaring event. At 3:47 pm, Air District staff was onsite investigating the incident and began responding to air quality complaints regarding the flaring event. Air District staff observed significant flaring from 4 flares with large flames and black smoke. The wind during the event was East-Northeast from 5-10 miles per hour.



While onsite, Air District staff contacted the Chevron refinery representatives and were informed the refinery experienced a power loss to a portion of the facility which resulted in upset process units and subsequent flaring. In addition, Air District staff was in communication with Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) during the event. Contra Costa County informed Air District staff they requested a 72-hour report from Chevron for this event. Air District staff remained onsite into the late evening to monitor the event and respond to additional air quality complaints. The complainants were alleging flaring, fire, smoke and odors related to the event. At this time, the total number of air quality complaints received is approximately 100.

November 28, 2023

At 8:00 am, the Air District staff spoke with Chevron and were informed that flaring ceased at 02:03 am. Chevron does not expect additional flaring to occur as they normalize operations following the event. This is the reasoning for CWS Level 1 for intermittent flaring reported on November 28, 2023 at 8:04 am.

The Air District has issued four notices of violation (NOV), three for visible emissions violations from flares and 1 public nuisance violation to Chevron Refinery for the 11/27 flaring event. For more information on the NOVs, click the link to the [NOV web tool](#).

The investigation is still ongoing, and more violations may be issued.