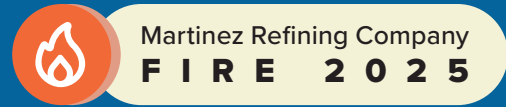


FEBRUARY 12, 2025

What the Air District's Air Sampling Results Mean



1. The Bay Area Air District did air sampling at three locations near the Martinez Refining Company around the time of the Feb. 1 fire at the refinery. Air sampling consists of drawing air into a canister over the period of a few seconds.
2. The sample locations were downwind of the fire (north of the refinery) in a relatively unpopulated area of Martinez. This was the area most impacted by smoke from the fire.

Collection Date/Time	Location of Sample
Feb 1st at 4:52 pm	Marina Vista/Waterfront Road 680 off ramp
Feb 1st at 5:15 pm	Waterfront Road near 680 on ramp
Feb 2nd at 10:55 am*	Waterfront Road near 680 on ramp

*Sample was taken next day after other samples



3. Contra Costa Health (CCH) has reviewed the sampling data done by an independent lab, which analyzed for volatile organic compounds. Many volatile organic compounds are known carcinogens or can have other impacts on health.
4. The sample results indicate impacts to air quality in areas north of the refinery above historical background levels. In particular, ●benzene (a known carcinogen) and ●1,2,4-trimethylbenzene were found in the air samples at levels above normal levels and may have presented a health concern during the incident.
5. The results are consistent with what County health officials observed in the field the day of the incident that triggered the shelter-in-place warning north of the refinery at 4:48 PM, which was lifted later that evening when air quality significantly improved.
6. Based on the chemical information provided to CCH from MRC and air sampling results, we are actively working with an independent toxicologist to determine whether any additional analyses related to air, soil or water as a result of the release are needed.