Marathon Refinery Fire
Incident Update—February 27, 2020

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) analyzed results collected from air samples near the fire that took place at the Marathon Refinery in Carson, Calif. late Tuesday night, February 25, 2020 and into early Wednesday morning, February 26, 2020.

Two grab samples were collected on February 26 at approximately 1:20 a.m. and 2:14 a.m. (see below Map). The samples were analyzed for gaseous air toxics such as benzene, toluene, styrene and tetrachloroethylene (perc). Overall, the results did not show any levels above what is normal in ambient air in the South Coast Air Basin.

For example, benzene levels from both samples show levels at 0.8 parts per billion (ppb) and 0.7 ppb. Background levels for benzene in the South Coast Basin range from 0.1 ppb to 1.8 ppb. Results for toluene from both samples show 3 ppb and 6 ppb. Background levels for toluene in the Basin range from 0.01 ppb to 6.15 ppb.

South Coast AQMD also deployed its mobile monitor on February 26th in the morning and afternoon to measure for particulate matter (PM) in the nearby community. Analysis of that data shows that PM levels were within typical range for urban areas.

The agency continues to evaluate whether any regulatory violations occurred as a result of the incident.

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

MARATHON REFINERY FIRE SAMPLING LOCATIONS

Imagery: Port of Long Beach, USDA FSA, DigitalGlobe, CNES/Airbus DS | Esri Community Maps Contributors, Port of Los Angeles, City of Carson, City of Long Beach, County of Los Angeles, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Lang Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

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