






SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Phillips 66 Refinery Fire March 15, 2019

On March 15, 2019, at 7:15 pm, Los Angeles Fire Department officials were notified of a fire taking place at the Phillips 66 facility in the 1500 block of East Sepulveda Boulevard in Carson, Calif. The fire took place until approximately 9:30 pm when firefighters fully extinguished the fire. The fire was caused by a failed pump seal in the crude unit. No injuries were reported and no evacuations took place.

South Coast AQMD inspectors collected three ambient air samples upwind and downwind from the fire, which were sent to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) laboratory and analyzed for gaseous air toxics such as benzene, tetrachloroethylene (perc), toluene and styrene. Samples did not demonstrate any values above what is normal in ambient air in the South Coast Air Basin except for 5.6 ppb butane detected in ambient air samples collected downwind.

Inspectors noticed a strong, but localized, gasoline odor. Odors were not present beyond the crude unit. The pump that caught fire was blackened and charred, and three surrounding pumps were also damaged.

South Coast AQMD received 19 complaints alleging smoke related to the incident. The agency will evaluate whether any regulatory violations occurred.