

Joint Oversight Hearing
Energy, Utilities and Communications and Environmental Quality Committees
Living Next to a Refinery: How Do We Know it is Safe?
March 5, 2015

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- 14 Major Refineries in California: 8 in LA County
- Daily gasoline production in CA: 45 million gallons or 5,600 tanker trucks
- Exxon Mobil: produces 1.8 billion gallons per year

INTERAGENCY REFINERY TASK FORCE

1. Why was it formed?

- ❖ Chevron, Richmond Incident August 6, 2012
 - ✓ Pipe rupture from corrosion
 - ✓ 15,000 residents sought medical attention
 - ✓ BART shutdown
 - ✓ Public and agency communications/coordination breakdowns
 - ✓ \$3 million fines/penalties
 - ✓ Lawsuits and additional filings possible

- ❖ Governor's Work Group on Refinery Safety formed (September 2012) – report (finalized in February 2014) recommended formation of the Interagency Refinery Task Force (IRTF) with Cal EPA the lead agency. (www.calepa.ca.gov/refinery)



Chevron Richmond event-August, 2012

IRTF PARTICIPANTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Environmental Protection Agency• California Air Resources Board• Department of Toxic Substances Control• State Water Resources Control Board• Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health• Governor's Office of Emergency Services• California Department of Public Health• California Emergency Medical Services Authority• Office of the State Fire Marshal• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certified Unified Program Agencies with refineries<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Contra Costa County Environmental Health– El Segundo Fire– Kern County Environmental Health– Los Angeles County Fire– City of Los Angeles Fire– San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health– Solano County Environmental Health• Local Air Pollution Control Districts with refineries<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Bay Area Air Quality Management District– San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District– San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District– South Coast Air Quality Management District
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2. THREE WORKGROUPS

- ❖ SAFETY AND PREVENTION
- ❖ EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
- ❖ INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

3. SAFETY AND PREVENTION

- ❖ IRTF working to “strengthen and align” the Process Safety Management (PSM) and Cal ARP programs.
- ❖ Cal ARP is under CA OES and implemented by CUPAs
- ❖ Cal OSHA standards for workers / Cal ARP also deals with offsite impacts

4. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- ❖ Looking to improve via Area Plans and Cal ARP Emergency Response Plans
- ❖ Regulation Development (Title 19)
 - **Alignment of communications – interoperability**
*This was good at Exxon Mobil but not in Richmond.
Are areas of improvement.*
 - **Unified command and joint operations**
This was good at Exxon Mobil but not in Richmond.

- **Joint coordinated press releases through a single PIO**
How and when is critical information released to the public?
How is information released vetted?
- **Plans for protecting the community and environment**
Shelter in place vs evacuations
Involvement of local health officers
Process to analyze offsite impacts
- **Plans for emergency warning systems**
When to use
Use of multiple platforms to alert the community
Training in the community
Clear messages
- **Drills and exercises**
How often
Who to involve
Who will prepare and pay
- **Handling and monitoring airborne releases**
Who and where to sample
How sample results are reviewed and utilized
Coordinating teams

- ❖ Some issues
 - Defining regulated facilities – refineries now but what about the other high hazard facilities?
 - Mutual aid resources
 - Must be implementable, feasible and enforceable

5. INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

- ❖ Coordinate inspection and enforcement activities
- ❖ Share information where appropriate
- ❖ Conduct joint inspections where appropriate
- ❖ Share training opportunities

6. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- ❖ Increase public involvement in emergency planning
- ❖ Hold Safety Forums throughout the State to exchange information and dialogue (two held so far with more planned).

7. COMMENTS

- ❖ Cal EPA to hire a manager to coordinate and facilitate refinery issues – done.
- ❖ Regulatory process can take time – can we move forward in some areas? LA County moving forward to share experiences with other refineries
- ❖ Need to bring Fire Ops perspective into the process
- ❖ Regulations need to be implementable and enforceable
- ❖ Looking at enforcement enhancements

8. CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Many of the lessons from Exxon Mobil were expected to be challenges
- ❖ If all the proposed regulations move forward, we will definitely see improvements in CA on all fronts.
- ❖ *We know we are not 100% but we are on the way!*

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