

Chevron Update

Early on Monday evening, those of us who live in West County looked up and saw a large cloud of dark smoke coming from the Chevron Richmond Refinery. As we now know, a leak caused a fire in one of the refinery's Crude Units. A "shelter in place" was called in Richmond, North Richmond and San Pablo, and a health advisory was extended to El Cerrito and Kensington. So far, more than 1,700 people have gone to local emergency rooms seeking treatment.

Investigations are currently being conducted by the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, U.S. EPA, Cal OSHA, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Contra Costa County Health Services, and Chevron. A full report on the cause of the fire will be issued after the conclusion of these investigations, most likely within 30 to 60 days. Chevron is also required to file a report within 72 hours and another within 30 days of the incident detailing information about the fire. After a final investigation report is issued, the County will require the implementation of any recommendations to prevent reoccurrence of this type of incident, in addition to any other conditions imposed by the other investigating agencies.

I received a call on my cell phone about 6:45 p.m. advising me to "shelter in place". Sirens were sounded and over the next couple of hours, automated phone calls were made to approximately 18,000 households informing them to "shelter in place." I have asked for a full accounting of when and where phone calls were made and sirens sounded. The emergency telephone system must be improved so that calls are made much more quickly to the affected communities.

While current available technology only allows the emergency notification system to automatically call telephone landlines, you can register to receive emergency alerts on your cell phone. To do so, go to the Sheriff's Department website at www.cws.cccounty.us and follow the instructions.

Our County Health Department website at www.cchealth.org/special/richmond-refinery-response.php has updates about the Chevron fire including information about health impacts and frequently asked questions.

The District Attorney's Office has received information that someone is delivering false claim report forms to Richmond residents asking them to provide confidential information. *These forms are a SCAM and should not be completed.*

Those seeking to file a claim with Chevron for medical or property damages should either contact an attorney or call **Chevron's claims adjuster at 866-260-7881.**

We will periodically provide updates to keep you informed.

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