

**VENTURA COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**
Memorandum

TO: VCAPCD Website

DATE: August 9, 2016

FROM: Mike Villegas

SUBJECT: Upper Ojai Oil Tank Fire

Elaine Searcy, of the District's Monitoring Division, arrived at the oil tank fire site on Friday August 5, 2016 around 12:15pm. The site is north of Hwy 150, approximately 1/4 mile west of Koenigstein Road in Upper Ojai. The fire was completely extinguished, and oil was splattered (and in one location, pooled) around the burned tank. The site had a faint petroleum smell. Based on the fact the oil smell was faint, only one grab sample was taken, near and downwind of the tank site.

The samples were analyzed for a number of volatile organic compounds, including benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylenes. These compounds are found in crude oil.

I compared the test results to acute reference exposure levels (REL) developed by the Cal-EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) for the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program. <http://oehha.ca.gov/air/general-info/oehha-acute-8-hour-and-chronic-reference-exposure-level-rel-summary>. I also compared the test values to the most recent (2015) ambient data collected by the California Air Resources Board at our Simi Valley monitoring station, for comparison. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/adam/toxics/sitesubstance.html>

Sample location	compound	Sample concentration, ppb	OEHHA Acute REL, ppb	2015 Mean Ambient concentration, ppb
See above	Benzene	0.46	8	0.161
See above	Toluene	0.42	10,000	0.80
See above	Ethyl benzene	<SRL ^b	460	0.10
See above	Xylenes ^a	<SRL ^b	5000	0.20

^a-sum of m, p, and o xylenes; ^b-sample reporting limit = 0.25 ppb

The benzene level in the sample from the incident area appears to be elevated relative to mean ambient concentration, but is well below the level at which adverse health effects due to short term exposure would be expected. The level for toluene was lower than the mean ambient concentration.