

Thomas Fire Air Monitoring

Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies

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Particulate Matter

- * The District operates five BAM sites for PM_{2.5}, and two BAM sites for PM₁₀
- * Near real-time data is available
- * Monitoring staff provided weekend Air Quality Advisories
- * Future program improvement – Spanish translation

Smoldering Oil Seeps - VOC

- * Grab samples taken at three locations – 12/15/17
- * Approximate sampling time was one minute
- * BTEX levels were elevated compared to the annual average at our toxics site (Simi Valley)
- * BTEX levels (max = 5 ppb) were below OEHHA acute Reference Exposure Level (8 ppb) and ATSDR Intermediate Minimal Risk Level (6 ppb)

Grab Sample at HWY 150 near Osborn Road



VOC Sampling

- * 24-hr time integrated sample taken at Saint Thomas Aquinas College
- * BTEX levels (1 ppb) well below OEHHA acute REL and ATSDR MRL, but elevated compared to the annual average at our toxics site (Simi Valley)
- * Future improvements – expanded explanation of results; also present minimum and maximum levels of compounds measured at our toxics site

PAH Sampling

- * Concerns with potential Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) emissions received from the community
- * PAHs are associated with the combustion of organic matter including crude oil
- * Staff obtained sampling equipment (high-volume sampler) from the SCAQMD and a contract laboratory (filter media)

PAH Sampling

- * 24-hour sample for PAHs at Saint Thomas Aquinas College
- * SCAQMD provided Standard Operating Procedures for monitoring
- * Results received 1/12/18
- * SCAQMD performed Risk Assessment for both PAHs and VOCs – results 1/31/18

PAH Sampling at Saint Thomas Aquinas College



Risk Assessment

- * Non-cancer: calculated acute hazard index of 0.12, well below District's significance level of 1.0
- * Cancer: additional calculated risk of 37 in a million, above District's significance level of 10 in a million
- * Benzene (VOC) is the driver for risk
- * Risk assessment based on conservative assumptions:
 - * Six month exposure
 - * Did not account for background concentrations

Current Information

- * Calculated cancer risk is at a level where we should be concerned, but the risk is not overwhelming
- * Should focus on VOC monitoring for any future incidents
- * We were fortunate that the wildfire was extinguished in the area we sampled for PAHs, as wildfires create PAHs