



Community & Economic Development Department

4430 South Adams County Parkway,
1st Floor, Suite W2000
Brighton, CO 80601-8205
PHONE 720.523.6800 FAX 720.523.6967

MEMORANDUM

To: Adams County Board of County Commissioners
From: Katie Keefe, Environmental Programs Manager
Through: Noel Bernal, County Manager
Alisha Reis, Deputy County Manager
Jenni Hall, Community & Economic Development Director
Chase Evans, Community & Economic Development Deputy Director
Date: January 19, 2023
RE: Suncor Refinery Incidents & Facility Shutdown Briefing

Summary of Events:

Due to the extreme and record-setting weather, Suncor's Commerce City refinery experienced equipment damage. Weather related shutdowns led to several incidents over a week's time:

- 1 incident on 12/22/22
- 2 incidents on 12/24/22
- 1 incident on 12/27/22

OSHA initiated an investigation after a fire in one of the plants resulted in reportable injuries.

On 12/28/22, Suncor decided to shut down the entire facility and put it into safe mode to allow for the inspection of all units and repair of damaged equipment.

- 2 Plants have completed shut-down with the final Plant nearing full shut-down
- Expect additional flaring, noise and possibly traffic, during repair work and startup operations.
- Progressive startup of refinery units and a return to full operations is expected end of Q1 2023.

Suncor self-reported a series of excess emission events ("EEE"), including releases of hydrogen sulfide, sulfur dioxide, visible smoke and an "opacity exceedance".

- These EEE and permit limit exceedance reports will be published on the Suncor website within the first half of February.
- APCD's Compliance and Enforcement team evaluates all permit limit exceedances and excess emission events to determine if they constitute a violation of the refinery's operating permit.
- An APCD inspector conducted a site visit last week to assess the status of emission units and gather additional information for compliance assessment.

All incidents that occurred in December will be detailed in Suncor's quarterly *community compliance report*, which Suncor expects to post by 1/31/23.

Air monitoring:

Community air monitors were fully operational before, during, and after incidents and will continue real-time air monitoring, providing continuous data to the data dashboard.

- No pollutant concentrations recorded/detected above acute health-based guidelines (NOx, CO, PM, SO2).
- Cultivando's air monitors located throughout the community also did not detect/log pollutant levels above respective acute health guideline values.

- Continuous emissions monitors required by federal statute and listed in the CAA Title V Operating Permit will remain operational throughout the shut-down, inspection, and repair operations, as well as during plant-wide startup.
- Fenceline monitoring of hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, and benzene commenced on 1/1/23 and will remain operational throughout the shut-down and startup operations.
- CDPHE has placed their mobile air monitoring lab near Suncor at Lorraine Granado Community Park (52nd and Steele). The mobile air monitoring lab conducts continuous, real-time monitoring of the following:
 - ✓ Total VOC
 - ✓ BTEX
 - ✓ CAPs
 - ✓ CH₄, O₃
 - ✓ Collects samples for speciated VOC analysis
- CDPHE is currently reviewing all raw mobile lab data and will post that data to their website in the near future.