



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	Chevron Refinery Fire
Recommendation Number(s):	2012-3-I-CA-R18
Date Issued:	April 19, 2013
Recipient:	California Air Quality Management Divisions
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	December 29, 2015

Recommendation Text:

Participate in the joint regulatory program described in recommendation 2012-03-I-CA-R11. This participation shall include contributing relevant data to the repository of investigation and inspection data created by the California Department of Industrial Relations and jointly coordinating activities.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On August 6, 2012, the Chevron Refinery in Richmond, California, experienced a catastrophic pipe failure in a crude unit, causing the release of a flammable hydrocarbon process fluid which partially vaporized into a large cloud. Nineteen Chevron employees engulfed by the vapor cloud escaped, narrowly avoiding serious injury. The CSB's investigation found gaps in California's Process Safety Management (PSM) regulation for requiring refineries to identify process hazards. As a result, the CSB recommended to the Governor and Legislature of the State of California that it revise its PSM regulation for refineries. The CSB also recommended that the regulatory process be a joint program inclusive of relevant stakeholders. This status change summary pertains only to the participation of the California Air Quality Management Divisions in the California PSM revisions (2012-3-I-CA-R18).

B. Response to the Recommendation

The recipient of this recommendation, the California Air Quality Management Divisions (AQMD), consists of four local air quality management divisions in California including: the Bay Area AQMD, the South Coast AQMD, the San Luis Obispo AQMD and the San Joaquin AQMD. All four AQMDs participate in the Interagency Refinery Task Force (IRTF). The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) formed the Interagency Refinery Task Force (IRTF) in August 2013 following a directive from the Governor's July 2013 report, "Improving Public and Worker Safety at Oil Refineries." The IRTF has provided input on both Cal/EPA's revisions to the Accidental Release Prevention program, as well as the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) revisions to the PSM regulations. The IRTF is expected to convene on a permanent basis quarterly through the CalARP and PSM rulemaking process and on a tri-annual basis following finalization to work on the implementation of the rules.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

As a result of the above actions, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation **No. 2012-3-I-CA-R18** to "**Closed – Acceptable Action.**"