



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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South Coast AQMD issues violation for natural gas release causing evacuation in Downey

DIAMOND BAR – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) today to Select Electric, an electrical contracting company, following a release of natural gas in Downey last month that impacted the public.

The NOV alleges that Select Electric caused a public nuisance in violation of the agency’s Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code Section 41700. On April 22, a team of South Coast AQMD inspectors was dispatched to monitor reports of a natural gas leak at the intersection of Stewart and Gray Rd. and Rives Ave. in Downey.

Upon their arrival, the inspectors detected odors approximately 500 feet north of the natural gas leak site. Using handheld monitors, they detected emissions of natural gas and measured hydrocarbon emissions as high as 2,000 ppm approximately 40 feet from the leak. The City of Downey Fire Department sprayed water on the leak site to minimize odors and the spread of natural gas. The leak caused the evacuation of residents from over 20 single-family homes and approximately 28 apartment units.

The leak was mitigated and repaired on April 23, including replacing sections of the pipeline. South Coast AQMD staff monitored the area, and no further emissions were detected.

NOVs can result in civil penalties. In some cases, the company can choose to implement voluntary measures to reduce emissions or otherwise prevent further violations. If no settlement is reached, a civil lawsuit may ultimately be filed in superior court.

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for major portions of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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