

COMMUNITY UPDATE - May 26, 2022

After the May 6th South Coast Air Quality Management Notification of Release of Hazardous Substance at Sterigenics facility.

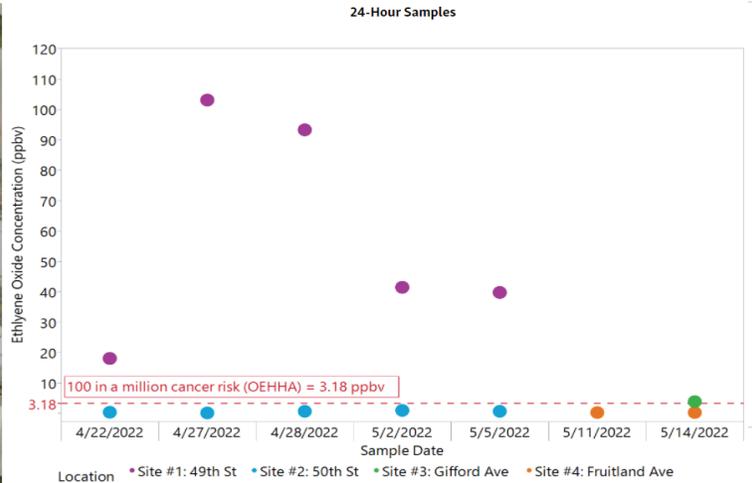


Figure 4. Plot of 24-hour time integrated sample concentrations.

BACKGROUND:

On May 6, 2022, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) notified Public Health and the general public that air monitoring detected elevated levels of ethylene oxide on-site at Sterigenics, located at 4900 Gifford Avenue in the City of Vernon.

As of May 25, 2022, SCAQMD continues to conduct and report results of their air monitoring near the Sterigenics buildings as well as multiple locations within the community. At this time, SCAQMD reports that measurements of ethylene oxide in the residential community near Sterigenics are similar to other parts of the Los Angeles region and below health risk levels established by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) (see blue and orange dots on chart above). In contrast, ethylene oxide measurements just outside the facility (purple and green dots) may present a health risk for nearby workers. Based on current available data, investigations are focused on ethylene oxide levels inside and immediately around the facility. To obtain more information on SCAQMD investigation visit <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/community-investigations/sterigenics>.

The City of Vernon Health & Environmental Control Department (HECD), the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) is also required to regulate the Sterigenics facility in accordance with State and local laws and report the facility's compliance with statewide standards.

Public Health, SCAQMD, HECD, and OEHHA are working together to keep the community informed and to protect the health of offsite workers. The workgroup will notify the community of any levels of concern or needed actions as appropriate.

TO REPORT CONCERNS

If you live near the Sterigenics facilities and are experiencing bad smells, you can report odors by calling: 800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664) Or filing a complaint online: www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/complaints

If you have questions regarding health concerns Call: 626-430-9821 Email: tox@ph.lacounty.gov

HEALTH FACTS:

Ethylene Oxide is a gas used in the facility to sterilize medical equipment. It has a sweet, but pungent chemical odor. Short-term exposure to ethylene oxide in humans can irritate the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. Long-term exposure can cause damage to the brain and nervous system. Ethylene oxide has been linked to cancer in humans, including breast and blood cancers.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

At this time, no specific action is required.

For updates on this issue, please visit:

<http://ph.lacounty.gov/eh/safety/local-issues.htm>
or
<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/community-investigations/sterigenics>.