

TEN YEARS LATER  
SAFER THAN EVER

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# PIPELINE

NEWS ABOUT CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S REFINERY INDUSTRY

WINTERSPRINGSUMMERFALL 2009

## TEN YEARS LATER SAFER THAN EVER

□ Contra Costa County's refineries have had their safest year ever, according to a new report presented to the County Board of Supervisors on November 10. The success is due in large part to the county's Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO), which was adopted a decade ago; and a commitment by the refineries to make it work.

"This is the first year since the Board of Supervisors passed the County's Industrial Safety Ordinance that there has not been a major chemical accident or release in the county," said Hazardous Materials Programs Director Randall Sawyer in his annual

report to the board. "The trend since the adoption of the Industrial Safety Ordinance has been fewer and fewer major chemical accidents or releases each year."

This year's safety high point also marks ten straight years in which none of the county's refineries has experienced a "Level 3" accident (an incident where major damage or a fatality occurs) — a testament to both the ISO's effectiveness and the cooperative efforts of the refineries, the county and labor to improve safety.

"Everyone here understands that safety is our first priority," says Phil Stern, Manager of Health, Environment and Safety at the ConocoPhillips Refinery. "We pride ourselves on the level of safety we've achieved for our workers and the people of this community."

Adopted on January 15, 1999, the ISO applies not just to oil refineries, but to chemical facilities within the county

as well, and includes the most stringent safety rules in the nation. Its success has grabbed the attention of safety experts outside the county, and has become a model nationwide, setting the standard for safety among refineries and other facilities.

"The bottom line is that the ISO is working," says Shell Refinery Manager Alicia Izarraraz. "Its success speaks

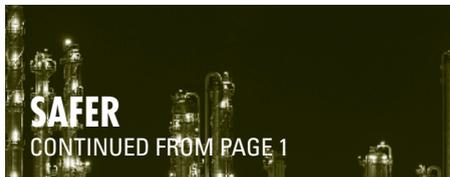
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**"WE'VE RAISED THE  
BAR VERY HIGH.  
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volumes about the dedication and commitment to safety that every refinery in the county has made. We've all played an important part in making the ISO a model for the nation."

For facilities regulated by the ISO, it isn't enough to just receive training and follow regulations, however. Refineries have taken the next step and made safety a way of life for their employees.

"Safety, both process and personal safety, is a core value for us," said Mike Coyle, General Manager of the Chevron Refinery. "From operator to executive, from engineer to mechanic, it's all about taking responsibility to make sure our refineries are the safest they can be so that each of us are able to enjoy our time outside of work with our loved ones."



**THE ISO HAS BECOME A NATIONAL MODEL, SETTING THE STANDARD FOR REFINERY SAFETY.**

Further education is one way to meet this goal. Refinery personnel have been attending "safety summits" organized by the refineries for the past decade. Coordinated with Contra Costa County's Community Awareness and

Emergency Response Organization, the summits allow a variety of safety, environmental and labor officials to gain knowledge and share ideas for improving safety, ensuring that they're all in step with the latest safety programs and techniques.

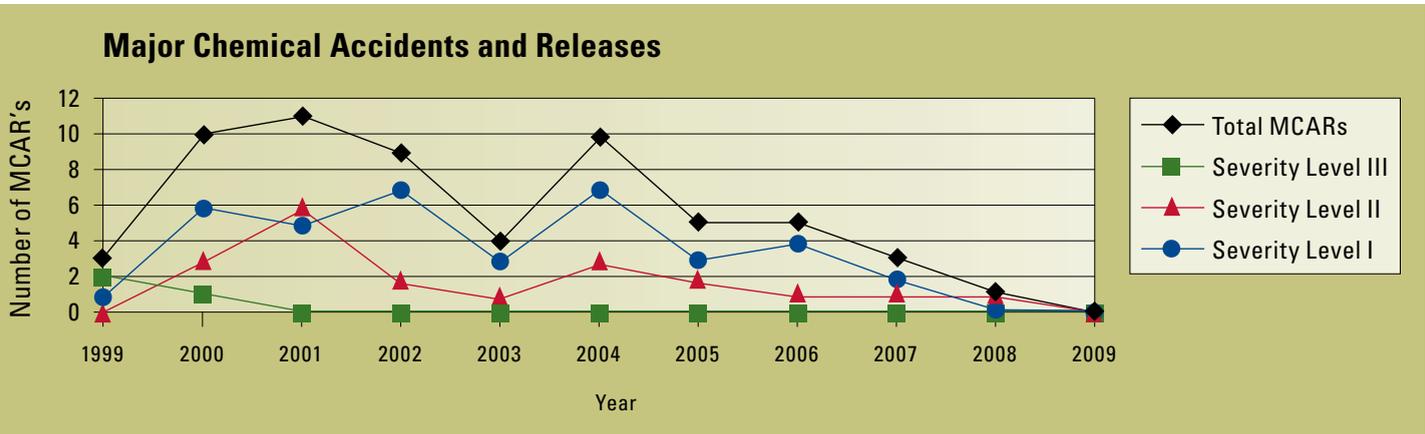
"We want to stay ahead of the curve," says Tesoro Refinery Manager Bill Bodnar. "Having a year with no major accident is great, but safety never rests. We've raised the bar very high. We want to keep it that way."

A copy of the 2009 Industrial Safety Ordinance Report can be downloaded at [http://www.cchealth.org/groups/hazmat/pdf/iso/iso\\_report\\_2009.pdf](http://www.cchealth.org/groups/hazmat/pdf/iso/iso_report_2009.pdf) ■

**SAFETY COMES NATURALLY**

□ The 1,100 miles of trails running throughout the East Bay Regional Park District will soon be even safer, thanks to a new partnership with the Committee for Industrial Safety.

Representing Contra Costa's Shell, Tesoro, ConocoPhillips and Chevron refineries, the committee is providing



**REFINERY ACCIDENTS DECLINE**

Major chemical accidents and releases have declined dramatically over the past ten years, with no Level III incidents in a decade.

Source: Industrial Safety Ordinance Annual Report, November 10, 2009

equipment, vehicles and uniforms for the park district's Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol.

"It's a perfect fit," says Rosemary Cameron, Executive Director of the Regional Parks Foundation, which raises contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations to ensure that the East Bay Regional Park District's public programs are accessible to all. "We appreciate the refineries' commitment to safety and their willingness to help protect regional park visitors and this beautiful community resource."

"Safety is obviously an important issue for us. It's something we focus on every day," says Shell Refinery Manager Alicia Izarraraz. "We're happy to help put it to work on the trails now too."

The Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol includes five patrol groups: the Volunteer Mounted Patrol, the Volunteer Bicycle Patrol, the Volunteer Hiking Patrol, the Companion Dog Patrol and the Volunteer Marine Safety Unit. Members of these patrol groups also participate in the district's Search and Rescue (SAR) unit.

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## "WE APPRECIATE THE REFINERIES' COMMITMENT TO SAFETY."

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The patrols help protect the safety of visitors and park resources, report emergencies and assist at public events. (To volunteer or learn more, visit [www.parkpatrol.org](http://www.parkpatrol.org).)

Established in 1934, the East Bay Regional Park District includes more than 100,000 acres of open space with 65 parks and over a thousand miles of bike, equestrian and hiking trails. It's the largest regional park district in the nation. "True to the ideas of our founders, our mission continues to be providing recreational opportunities, preserving the natural beauty of the land, and protecting wildlife habitat," reads the district's website. "These parks truly do belong to all of us."

The Committee for Industrial Safety presented the foundation with a



Members of the Committee for Industrial Safety present a check for \$106,729 to the East Bay Regional Park Foundation for the Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol.

check for \$106,729 on November 19, which will be used to purchase an SUV, equipment trailer, uniforms and safety equipment for the district's volunteer trail safety patrol.

The refineries will also be encouraging their employees to volunteer for the program. "What better way to spend a few hours on a weekend," says Tesoro Refinery Manager Bill Bodnar. "Being out on the trails, surrounded by beauty, helping to make the experience safer for everybody."

"It's a way for us to give something back to the community," says Chevron Refinery Manager Mike Coyle. "We're proud and happy to be part of this."

This isn't the first time the refineries have stepped up for the park district by supporting the Regional Parks Foundation.

"A number of our refinery members have been active on the foundation board," says Ron Banducci, who works with the Committee for Industrial Safety and is a past president of the foundation board. "The refineries have a very long history of helping to preserve our local open space and parklands."

"We all have a common interest in protecting Contra Costa's beauty and quality of life," says ConocoPhillips Refinery Manager Rand Swenson. "This is our home too."

Last year, the Committee for Industrial Safety helped finance the campaign to pass Measure WW, which voters approved by a wide margin. The

measure provided funding to improve the county's local and regional parks, trails and recreational facilities, and to restore urban creeks, protect wildlife and save open space, wetlands and the bay shoreline.

"Contra Costa's refineries played a big part in our campaign to pass Measure WW," says East Bay Regional Park District Board President Ted Radke. "We welcomed them as part of our team — and they came through for us. We appreciate what they did to help protect Contra Costa's beauty and quality of life."

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## "WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPEND A FEW HOURS ON A WEEKEND — BEING OUT ON THE TRAILS, SURROUNDED BY BEAUTY, HELPING TO MAKE THE EXPERIENCE SAFER FOR EVERYBODY."

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To learn more about the many recreational opportunities offered by the East Bay Regional Park District, visit [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org). ■

## CELEBRATE!

□ The East Bay Regional Park District is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year — a good time to learn more about one of our community’s most treasured resources, where recreation, open space and wildlife preservation strike a perfect balance.

The district was established in 1934, when local civic leaders and citizens placed a measure on the ballot. Even though the nation was in the depths of the Great Depression, the measure passed with 71 percent of the vote, creating America’s first regional park agency — the East Bay Regional Park District.

For more information about the district’s remarkable history and the many recreational opportunities it offers, visit [www.ebparcs.org](http://www.ebparcs.org). ■

Sunol Regional Wilderness

*Photo by Deane Little, courtesy East Bay Regional Park District*

