



COMMUNITY NOTICE – 10/10/21

Los Angeles County's Response to Odors Reported in City of Carson

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Los Angeles County Fire Hazardous Materials (HazMat), and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) to identify the source and severity of the foul odors in the City of Carson.

South Coast AQMD, HazMat, and Public Health have been conducting air sampling in the City of Carson along the Dominguez Channel and in the surrounding community and found elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide in the air. Currently, the potential source of the hydrogen sulfide appears to be the Dominguez Channel. South Coast AQMD, HazMat, and Public Health will continue to conduct air monitoring and will do so until odors subside.

ARE ODORS HARMFUL TO MY HEALTH?

The levels of hydrogen sulfide in the air are not expected to cause irreversible health effects but are high enough to cause a strong, foul odor in the community. At these levels, hydrogen sulfide does cause nuisance odors and can cause short-term, reversible symptoms and negatively impact quality of life. Some of these temporary symptoms include headaches, nausea, or eye, nose, and throat irritation. Symptoms should go away when the odors are no longer present. If you experience worrisome or lingering symptoms related to odors, please contact your medical care provider.

HOW DO I REPORT ODORS?

If you notice “rotten egg” or “sulfur” odors, you can report them. A complaint can be filed online with South Coast Air Quality Management District at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/complaints>, or by telephone at 1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664).

RECOMMENDATIONS

While the effort to get rid of the odor continues, Public Health recommends you consider taking the following actions to protect your family's health:

- 1) Prevent outdoor odors from entering your home by keeping doors and windows closed as much as possible when odors are present.
- 2) Use your air conditioner, if available.
- 3) Use a portable indoor air filter such as a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) cleaner to improve air quality in your home. For more information on certified air filters, visit <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/list-carb-certified-air-cleaning-devices>.
- 4) Air out your home when odors are not present by temporarily opening windows and doors.
- 5) If symptoms feel life threatening, seek immediate medical care.

For more information on protective measures to prevent odors from entering the home, please contact the Public Health Community line at 626-430-9821 and leave a message with your contact information and your call will be returned. The message line will be checked every hour between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. everyday while odors persist.