

COMMUNITIES *for a*
BETTER
ENVIRONMENT
est. 1978

California Senate Environmental Quality Committee

2/18/2026

Julia May, Senior Scientist
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Chevron Richmond Refinery Explosion, 2012





Torrance Refinery Explosion, 2015

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©SB



2009



2010



2012



2012



2014



2015



2016



2016



2017



2019



2020



2023



2024



2025



2025



2025

**Oil Refineries
emit hundreds of
different
toxic chemicals
in vulnerable
communities:**

OEHHA found:

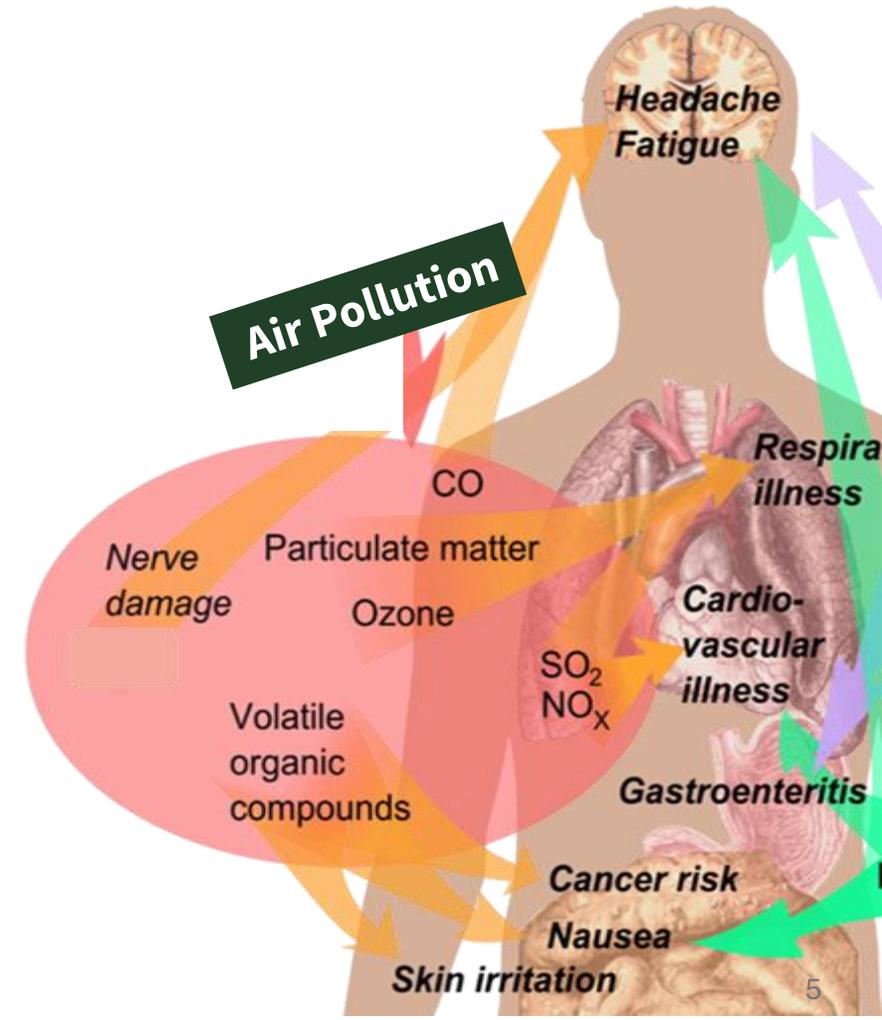
“Individuals living in close proximity to oil refineries may be at risk of chronic exposure to hydrogen sulfide.” [OEHHA](#) p. A-17

SCAQMD found:

Refineries are the largest sources of VOCs in the Wilmington, Carson, W. Long Beach neighborhood.

Detailed emission studies:

Refinery benzene emissions were grossly underestimated at every refinery in the South Coast.





Our members live on refinery fencelines