

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Safety and Enforcement Division
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Gas Engineering and Compliance Section

Incident Investigation Report

Report Date: 04/11/2008

Investigator: Raymond Fugere

Incident Number: G 20060301-01

Utility: Southern California Gas SoCalGas

Date and Time of the Incident: 2/4/2006, 2:00:00 AM

Location of the Incident: [REDACTED] Avenue
Northridge ,CA
County: Los Angeles

Summary of Incident:

An over pressure relief valve operated on an underground well, causing a release of natural gas, the released gas also contained a petroleum mist. The Department of Fish and Games required SoCalGas to take steps to clean up the petroleum. The plan established by the two parties was originally going to be under \$50,000, however Fish and Games revised the plan and now the clean up will cost over \$50,000. My investigation did not reveal any violation on the part of SoCalGas.

Casualties: *Fatalities:* 0 *Injuries:* 0

Property Damage: \$50,000.00

Utility Facilities involved:

Pipe Material = Unknown, Pipe Size = 0 (inches), MAOP = 0 (psi), Operating Pressure = 0 (psi)

Witnesses: None

Evidence: None

Observations and Findings:

SoCalGas was pumping gas into an underground well, when an over pressure relief valve operated. The operation of the relief valve caused a release of natural gas, the released gas also contained a petroleum mist. The Department of Fish and Games required SoCalGas to take steps to clean up the petroleum. The plan established by the two parties was originally going to be under \$50,000, however Fish and Games revised the plan and now the clean up will cost over \$50,000.

The over pressure relief valve operated due to back flow pressure that exceeded the set point of the valve.

Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:

None

Conclusion:

My investigation did not reveal any violation on the part of SoCalGas.