Learn more about SCIMO:
https://www.scimo.org

Community Awareness
and
Emergency Response

Beach Cities CAER
(BCCAER)

Beach Cities CAER is a non-profit public benefit organization focused on providing improved community engagement, emergency response education, and enhancing public health and safety.

We are a team of public agencies, city emergency management professionals, fire departments, schools, manufacturing industries, chemical producers and transporters in the South Bay region. Our goal is continuous improvement in the areas of community awareness, emergency preparedness and coordinated public agency and industry response programs.

SCAN ME

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Community Awareness
and
Emergency Response

Do You Know How Local Fire Departments and Refineries Prepare and Coordinate for Emergencies?

Ever wonder how much the local fire departments know about the refinery in your area?

The answer is plenty! For many years, local fire departments have conducted routine emergency drills and annual training exercises with refineries required by regulation.

Local fire departments have developed close relationships with refinery emergency response personnel through ongoing audits, tours, training, and required inspections of safety equipment and chemical storage inventories at facilities.

Audits

Separate divisions within the municipal fire departments conduct annual compliance audits at refineries. For instance, the municipal Fire Prevention Division audits refinery safety equipment, the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) division of the fire department audits hazardous materials inventories and the refinery's Risk Management and Process Safety programs. When you add all these fire and safety audits to the number of environmental agencies audits it averages about 80 compliance audits per year at each refinery.

Trained and Certified

Both industry and municipal fire departments are virtually connected at the hip. They periodically train together and are aware of each other's emergency response procedures, strategies, capabilities. Anytime there is an emergency at a refinery, municipal fire departments are typically the secondary line of defense to provide support to the primary response team, the refinery fire department. All South Bay refinery fire and emergency response teams are highly trained and certified in industrial firefighting, rescue, and hazardous materials response and mitigation.

Annual Agency / Industry Drills

Industry and fire agency training time is invested annually in separate oil spill response drills related to pipelines and marine terminals.

These table-top and field training exercises include the participation of additional regulatory agencies including, but not limited to the California State Fire Marshall, State Lands Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Office of Spill Prevention and Response.

In addition to the partnerships between local fire departments and refineries there is a third support tier of resources that can be utilized in large scale emergencies called Mutual Aid.

Mutual Aid

In emergency response services, mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. This may occur due to an emergency response that exceeds local resources, such as an industrial disaster or a multiple-alarm fire.

What is SCIMO?

The Southern California Industrial Mutual Aid Organization (SCIMO) is a non-profit benefit organization with the goals of providing coordination, communication, cooperation, and advocacy on issues common to its members.

SCIMO will facilitate mutual aid amongst its members for industrial incidents upon the request from the facility involved. This includes assistance with firefighting, rescue, hazardous material response staffing, resources and equipment.

In certain large scale industrial emergencies, municipal fire agency members may also request a SCIMO response for specialized equipment or resources.

SCIMO Members are representatives from:

- Local refineries and related industries
- Los Angeles area public emergency response service agencies

SCIMO provides response assistance through the Mutual-Aid System during large-scale emergencies:

- SCIMO agency personnel supplement Incident Command Teams
- SCIMO and local response agencies jointly control operations under Unified Command
- SCIMO provides Industrial Hygiene support for community air monitoring during emergencies
- SCIMO members maintain:
  - A core of highly trained personnel
  - More than 70 pieces of specialized equipment:
    - High-volume Foam Pumpers, Trucks and Tenders
    - Specialized industrial rescue and hazardous materials response vehicles

Points to remember

- ☑ Fire departments conduct annual audits of refinery equipment, chemical inventories and process safety programs
- ☑ Both public and refinery fire department personnel are highly trained and certified in fire fighting and hazardous material response and mitigation
- ☑ Public and refinery fire departments train and drill together annually

Together, your local fire department and neighboring refinery organizations provide the South Bay region with the most comprehensive and effective public/private industrial emergency response TEAM in the country.