

Hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) is a flammable gas with an offensive odor. In a low concentration it will have a characteristic “rotten egg” odor. Hydrogen sulfide is also slightly heavier than air, but will mix and is diluted in open air and light wind. As a safety precaution, fixed H<sub>2</sub>S sensors with panel and local mounted alarms are located throughout the refinery and are regularly maintained and calibrated to manufacturer specifications. In addition, all refinery employees wear a portable H<sub>2</sub>S monitor that will quickly alert them if H<sub>2</sub>S is present. These measures provide early detection so refinery employees can take safe and prompt action to prevent a further release and/or notify emergency responders.

While it is unlikely that H<sub>2</sub>S would be released in a quantity that would present an immediate and significant danger to our neighbors, even very low concentrations can cause discomfort including irritated eyes and throat, coughing and occasionally nausea in sensitive people. If you experience any of these symptoms, please shelter-in-place.

## How will I know if there is an emergency at the refinery? Communications from Emergency Officials -- *Ready Kern*

Kern County has established a state-of-the-art emergency notification system to alert residents and businesses about natural disasters and other emergencies. The **Ready Kern** emergency notification system enables county emergency officials to rapidly provide essential information to residents and businesses in various emergencies, such as chemical releases, earthquakes, severe weather, fires and floods. Paramount Petroleum pays a fee to support the **Ready Kern** emergency notification system. We encourage our neighbors to enroll and take full advantage of this valuable community service.

## How Ready Kern Works

Emergency communications begin when Kern County issues a message about a potential safety hazard or concern. Messages are sent to all standard voice and text communication devices, including landline phones, cell phones, and by e-mail. If you don't confirm receipt of the message, the system will try to reach your second contact number or email. The system will continue trying to contact you until it receives a confirmation from you.

To receive important communications from Kern County, residents and business owners must register the voice and text communication devices on which they wish to receive messages.



## SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS



Residents and businesses were automatically registered in the Ready Kern system if a phone number and street address were listed in a public telephone directory (White Pages) when the system was initially implemented.

Residents are encouraged to register online for Ready Kern at the County's website [www.co.kern.ca.us](http://www.co.kern.ca.us) (select the Emergency Tab) or at the Kern County Fire Department website [www.kerncountyfire.org](http://www.kerncountyfire.org) (select the Education Tab).

### How will neighbors know whether to shelter-in-place?

#### Visible Signs

Visible signs of a disruption might include a high and persistently burning flare, dark smoke, or a gas cloud. The refinery makes and emits steam in some of its processes, so a white plume of steam – with the absence of other indicators – is not a sign of a disruption. Emergency responders such as the Kern County Fire Department (responding with red lights and sirens) may also indicate a problem at the refinery.

#### Sounds

The Bakersfield Refinery has emergency warning alarms with loud speakers that are installed throughout the operating areas of our refinery. These can alert our employees and the surrounding community to an incident or emergency.

*Please note: The Bakersfield Refinery alarms are tested every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. In the absence of any other indication, an alarm at this time is a test and would not require Shelter-in-Place or other action.*

