



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

## NEWS RELEASE

**Public Information Officer:** Captain Ron Haralson

**DATE:** 9/11/20

**Contact:** 213-200-2477

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### LINGERING PUNGENT ODOR NOT CONSIDERED A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH

**Los Angeles, CA** – Residents living in the unincorporated area near Compton may continue to smell the lingering odor of natural gas which was discovered not to be a gas leak but a small chemical spill of mercaptan (a chemical used only to odorize natural gas) that had leaked in an abandoned oil field. The minor spill has since been stopped and the empty tank containing the chemical is scheduled to be removed on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Please be assured the smell is not a gas leak and it poses no fire or health concern. As a precautionary measure, nearby residents may choose to remain indoors until the odor fully dissipates.

“The health and safety of our residents is my office’s primary and most critical concern. My office is engaged with the coordinated response to this incident and is working to ensure that important information is conveyed to nearby residents,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. “While no one was harmed, I will continue working with County departments to assess the cause and response to this spill so that local residents are adequately apprised and informed.”

On Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 11:20 a.m., the Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to a reported gas leak at an abandoned oil field near South Main Street and Rosecrans Avenue in the unincorporated area near Compton. Upon arrival, firefighters discovered a minor, non-toxic chemical spill that resulted in a pungent but harmless odor emitting throughout the immediate area and areas downwind to the east.

No civilian or firefighter injuries have been reported and the South Coast Air Quality Management District is on-scene and assisting with air monitoring.

A recorded phone message directed toward those who live or work nearby the chemical spill area has been sent via Alert LA County, informing the public that there are no health or hazard risks due to the odor. Community members who want additional information may contact (213) 200-2477 or follow @LACoFDPIO on Twitter.

LA County Fire Foundation supports lifesaving programs throughout the region.

To be a part of our team learn more or donate at [SupportLACountyFire.org](https://SupportLACountyFire.org)

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The mission of the Los Angeles County Fire Department is to protect lives, the environment, and property by providing prompt, skillful, and cost-effective fire protection and life safety services.

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