

Waste Management  
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## Strong Odor in El Cajon explained

**EL CAJON, CALIF. — January 12, 2022** – During routine maintenance on Waste Management’s natural gas fueling equipment in El Cajon, a small amount of a compound called Mercaptan, which has a strong raw onions smell, spilled and was inadvertently exposed to the air. Site personnel immediately responded to clean up the spilled compound.

Mercaptan is added to natural gas by utilities and natural gas fueling operators, such as Waste Management, so that gas leaks can be detected by Mercaptan’s strong odor. Natural gas is odorless. No natural gas was released during the incident at Waste Management’s facility.

Mercaptan is used as a leak detector because of the following two characteristics:

- It is non-toxic to humans when dispersed in the open air
- It has an extremely strong odor, making it an ideal leak detector

“At Waste Management, my team and I strive to be the best neighbors possible.” said Greg Miller, Senior District Manager. “The safety and well-being of our communities and our employees is paramount. We are truly sorry for any discomfort, inconvenience or concern that our neighbors and others felt because of this unfortunate incident. You can be certain that we are taking this very seriously and have already begun working with our fuel equipment maintenance contractor to review the equipment and their maintenance procedures to identify improvements with the goal of preventing any recurrence.”

### **ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT OF SAN DIEGO**

Waste Management has served the communities of Santee and El Cajon for more than 40 years and is proud to be a community partner and an environmental steward of its unique natural resources. As North America’s leading environmental services company, we apply our far-reaching expertise and innovative solutions to an endless array of local issues. In addition to community contributions and significant volunteer efforts, Waste Management continues to provide residential, commercial, construction and recycling services.

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