

Odor Mitigation Update

EL CAJON, CALIF. — January 14, 2022 – During routine maintenance by its fuel equipment maintenance contractor on Waste Management’s natural gas fueling equipment in El Cajon on Wednesday, a small amount of a non-toxic gas safety odorant, mercaptan, spilled and was exposed to open air and water, which caused an odor in the area. Natural gas was not released.

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Technicians responded immediately to mitigate the odor by using carbon, an odor neutralizer, removing the spilled comingled water, and encapsulating the mercaptan feed system.

Waste Management and its fuel equipment maintenance contractor will be replacing the entire existing mercaptan feed system as soon as a new one can be shipped to the facility.



Mercaptan feed control equipment at WM El Cajon Hauling to be replaced.

Mercaptan is added in the fueling equipment process line as a safety measure to ensure that natural gas leaks do not go undetected. It is a legally required odor that must be injected in all produced Liquid to Compressed Natural Gas. Waste Management’s fleet runs on these renewable, clean fuels.

Mercaptan is same odorant that is used in the gas delivered to millions of homes in the United States. Mercaptan is used as a leak detector in part because:

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

No natural gas was released during the incident at Waste Management’s facility.

Greg Miller, Senior District Manager, continues to monitor the odor mitigation work at the site. “We are working diligently to continue to contain the source of the odor. Any lingering odor should dissipate in the next few days. I am committed to keeping the

public informed as we put in completely new equipment to help ensure future containment.”

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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