The Tesoro Petroleum Company is an independent oil refinery and marketer of petroleum products in the United States. The Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery was formerly known as the Ultramar Golden Eagle Refinery, Tosco Avon Refinery, and Phillips Avon Refinery. Tesoro purchased the refinery in May 2002. This 24-hour plant reportedly has 650 full time employees. The Golden Eagle Refinery processes about 168,000 barrels (1 barrel = 42 gallons) of crude oil per day into transportation fuels. The main fuels produced are gasoline and diesel. The refinery produces propane and butane for commercial uses. Also, the refinery produces anhydrous ammonia and elemental sulfur as by-products of the refining process, which are used for farming; as well as petroleum coke which is used for fuel cogeneration plants in East Contra Costa County and overseas. The refinery also supplies industrial neighbor Air Liquide with carbon dioxide for the manufacture of dry ice.

### Hazardous Substances Stored or Produced Onsite and Their Immediate Health Effects

- **Flammable Gases:** may be a mild irritant to throat, nose, lungs and discomfort to eyes.
- **Hydrogen Sulfide:** colorless, rotten egg smelling, corrosive and toxic gas. May irritate nose, throat and lungs and cause headaches, dizziness and difficulty in breathing.
- **Anhydrous Ammonia:** colorless, corrosive, irritating gas. Has a sharp suffocating odor. Inhalation can cause irritation in nose, throat, and lungs. May cause shortness of breath, headache, nausea and vomiting.
- **Sulfuric Acid:** colorless to brown in appearance. May cause digestive and respiratory tract burns and irritation.
- **Sulfur Dioxide:** colorless, corrosive gas with burnt match odor. May irritate nose, throat and lungs; may cause asthma-like reaction when inhaled.
- **Aqueous Ammonia:** colorless liquid with pungent odor. May cause convulsions breathing difficulty and nausea. Made by dissolving anhydrous ammonia in water.
3-year Accident History (Last updated April 2015)

11/15/2013: A brief power outage resulted in shut down of seven refinery process units and flaring of excess hydrocarbons. The situation was under control in 16 minutes, flaring was cleared in 46 minutes. Contra costa County Health Service Department Hazardous Materials Division and Bay Area Air Quality Management district were notified. No odor was detected offsite, the ground level monitors indicate normal odor level, and no community complaints of odors were received.

Safety Features and Recent Improvements (updated July 2014):

Tesoro Refinery reported improvement projects designed to reduce potential accidents and injuries including removing old and unnecessary equipment to eliminate potential release points, reduced hazardous materials inventory and reduced potential personnel exposure with equipment modifications; improving process design features and replacing or improving equipment functions and design features.

Summary of Most Recent Audit (updated January 2014):

Tesoro has developed and is implementing policies and procedures as required by CalARP and the County Industrial Safety Ordinance. Much of the prevention programs were found to be in compliance and consistent with the policies. Though Tesoro has continued to update and revise their operating procedures, additional efforts are necessary to make sure safety and health information is adequate and troubleshooting guidelines are consistent throughout the Operations Department. Tesoro needs to ensure that the human factors program effectiveness is reviewed on an established frequency for necessary revisions with employees and their representatives. Tesoro is working to finalize written maintenance procedures for tasks already identified. Policies in place for preparation and performing maintenance work are generally followed according to interviews with employees and contractors and are supported by records reviewed.

For more information:

Copies of the latest audit findings, Risk Management Plan, and Safety Plan can be found in the following locations:

CCHS Hazardous Materials Office
4585 Pacheco Blvd, Ste. 100
Martinez, CA 94553

Martinez Library
740 Court St. Martinez, CA 94553

Visit our website at www.cchealth.org/groups/hazmat or call 925-335-3200.