

FACTS ABOUT ALISO CANYON

WHAT HAPPENED AT ALISO CANYON?

On Oct. 23, 2015, a natural gas storage well operated by SoCal Gas near Los Angeles, California, sprung a massive leak hundreds of feet underground. The leak continued for months, at its peak releasing nearly 1,400 tons of natural gas into the air each day. After many unsuccessful attempts to plug the blowout, the leak was finally sealed on February 11, 2016.

Aliso Canyon **supplies 60% of the gas** used by Southern California Gas's 5.6 million residential customers, 215,000 commercial and industrial users, and 52 electric power plants.



WHAT ABOUT HEALTH IMPACTS?

Where methane is released into the atmosphere as part of natural gas, toxic pollutants such as volatile organic compounds, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene are also released. Symptoms such as rashes, nosebleeds, headaches, vomiting, nausea, skin irritation and respiratory problems were experienced by the residents of Porter Ranch and the surrounding region during the Aliso Canyon blowout. Some of the compounds released into the air at Aliso Canyon included benzene, a known carcinogen; hydrogen sulfide, which can affect the respiratory and cardiovascular systems; and n-hexane, a neurotoxin.

WHAT CAUSED THE LEAK?

The blowout occurred through a breach in the well approximately 400 feet below the surface. The facility is almost 64 years old.



HOW DID CALIFORNIA RESPOND?

Because there are no rules requiring leak and safety inspections for oil and gas facilities, and the oil and gas industry has shown it can't be trusted to fix the problem on its own, California took action. In May, 2016, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) proposed an important new **rule** that will reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations. When finalized, it will give California one of the most comprehensive methane pollution standards in the country.

Take action in support of the rule: momscleanairforce.org/ca-methane

HOW BIG WAS THE LEAK?

97,100 metric tons of methane, a powerful climate pollutant, leaked at Aliso Canyon between October, 2015 and February, 2016. The methane that leaked from the compromised Aliso Canyon storage well was the climate equivalent of burning nearly one billion gallons of gasoline. The leak had the same impact on the climate as releasing 8,156,400 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere or putting 1,735,404 more cars on the road for a year.



HOW SHOULD THE NATION RESPOND?

The Aliso Canyon blowout was huge; but there are smaller and even more prevalent leaks happening everyday throughout the country's oil and gas operations. Those emissions add up to more than 7 million metric tons of methane pollution every year. That's why it's so important we tackle methane pollution on a federal level.

Take action to demand federal rules limiting methane leaks from oil and gas operations:

momscleanairforce.org/methane-action

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See Moms Clean Air Force's resources on natural gas: www.momscleanairforce.org/focus-on-natural-gas

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