

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Topic: Flares

Distribution: All Policy Holders

Flares are essentially safety features which can be found at oil and/or gas processing facilities and on platforms. They are used during scheduled equipment shutdowns, normal operations (i.e., pigging) or in the event of equipment failure or breakdowns. Thus, flaring activities can either be planned or unplanned.

Because the permit conditions relating to flares are facility specific, the inspector should carefully examine the conditions and prepare a checklist accordingly. Generally, permit conditions may require the facility operator to maintain written logs containing the following information:

1. Time and date of each flaring event.
2. Duration of each flaring event.
3. Reason for each flaring event.
4. Quantity and description of gas flared, including Btu and sulfur content.

Visual inspection items are:

1. Visible emissions.
2. Wind screen (if required by the ATC/PTO)
3. Flare pilot (check to see if lit).
4. Condensate trap (if any), including condensate disposal method (tank, cellar, etc.) and quantity disposed.

Permit conditions may also limit the hourly quantity of pilot and purge gas, sulfur content of the gas flared and the number of flaring events per quarter.

Additionally, during flaring events, if possible, either obtain a sample of the gas being flared or use a Draeger Tube to determine the sulfur content (see Policy and Procedures III, "Sampling Program").

