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Serving Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

MONTEREY BAY AIR RESOURCES DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***Moss Landing Battery Facility Fire January 17, 2025 - Monterey, California***

Using information generated from our regulatory air monitors and wildfire smoke sensor network, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) has been tracking potential particulate matter impacts associated with emissions from the battery facility fire at Moss Landing.

It appears that there was good dispersion or dilution of smoke from the fire and the plume was elevated above populated areas traveling towards Watsonville and Santa Cruz County. Based on the elevated plume and particulate matter monitor and sensor data, smoke from the battery fire did not impact ground-level areas where people live.

It should be noted that MBARD does not have the capability to test for hydrofluoric acid (HF), a toxic air pollutant of concern associated with battery fire emissions from lithium battery fires. HF is a highly reactive gas that can readily react with water to form hydrofluoric acid, which can further react with other substances in the environment, impacting its mobility and toxicity. HF is lighter than air and generally rises when volatilized in a fire.

For more information on air quality, please check our website, <https://www.mbard.org/>, for near real-time concentrations of particulate matter characterized by the Air Quality Index. In addition, please check our Wildfire Smoke Info and Resources link for more information about our particulate matter sensor network: <https://www.mbard.org/wildfire-smoke-information-and-resources> .

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