

# DO YOU LIVE IN A DEATH OR DISASTER ZONE?

## **BAN DEADLY MHF (Modified Hydrogen Fluoride) at TORRANCE & WILMINGTON VALERO REFINERIES**

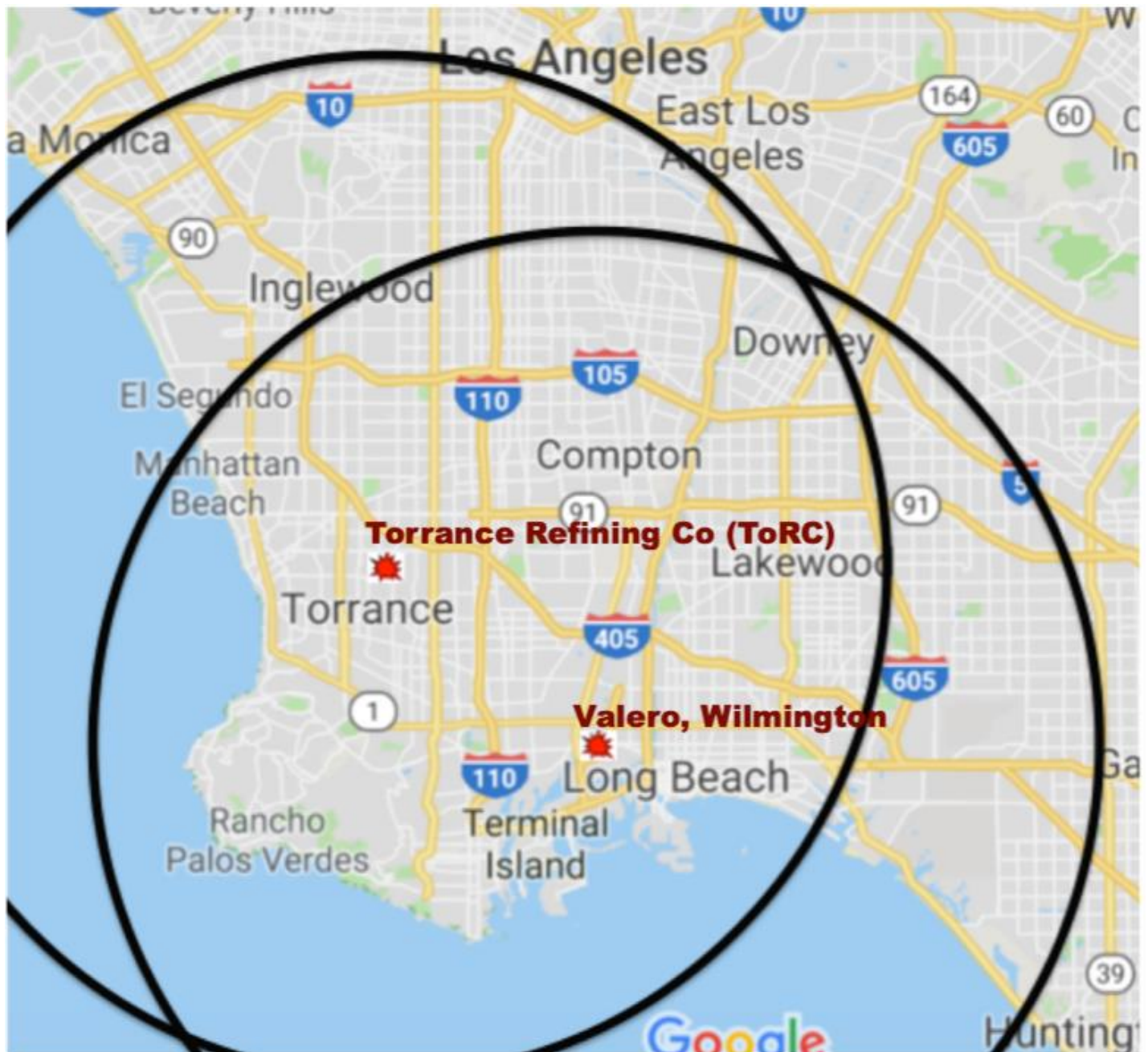


**8,300 lb. desert test showed HF forms ground-hugging lethal vapor cloud.** Exposure to the MHF plume during a major release can cause serious irreversible health effects 16-17 miles downwind from the Torrance or Valero refineries. In the first 8-9 miles death can occur. (Based on EPA's Risk Management Program guidelines.)

- One of the **world's most dangerous** industrial chemicals, (Modified) Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF), is used in only two California refineries:
  - Valero, Wilmington (579,000 lb. MHF onsite)
  - Torrance Refining Company (250,000 lb. MHF onsite)
- If released, MHF forms a ground-hugging cloud that can drift for miles, and can cause **death** or **severe injury**. **LA County Public Health found millions in the region are at risk.**
- All other refineries in California already use alternative chemicals (in refinery alkylation units).
- **The 2015 Torrance explosion almost caused a catastrophic MHF release according to the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.**
- 30 years ago, AQMD tried to eliminate MHF, but after oil industry opposition and a court challenge, AQMD didn't come back to complete the regulation until 2017.
- In 2017-2019, AQMD wrote new draft regulations requiring MHF phaseout, but in 2019 caved to refinery pressure and dropped its own staff proposal. AQMD instead accepted the oil industry proposal for voluntary safety measures, allowing continuing use of the deadly chemical.
- This was despite recommendations by the LA County Health Dept. and other expert findings that using this chemical represents a risk too great, especially in dense urban areas.
- **A planned switch to an alternative will create many jobs for building alternative alkylation units other refineries use.** Phasing out this chemical will protect workers AND community lives and our local economy.



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Map courtesy Dr. Sally Hayati.

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