

Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division



SS-25 Incident So Cal Gas Porter Ranch, CA

October 23, 2015



***SS-25 Aliso Canyon SC Gas Incident
Porter Ranch, CA
LA County Fire Department***

LA COUNTY FIRE HHMD

- ~30,000 Facilities /
- Unified Programs
- SMU, Investigations, and Emergency Ops
- Pop >10 million / 88 Cities / 4,083 Sq Miles

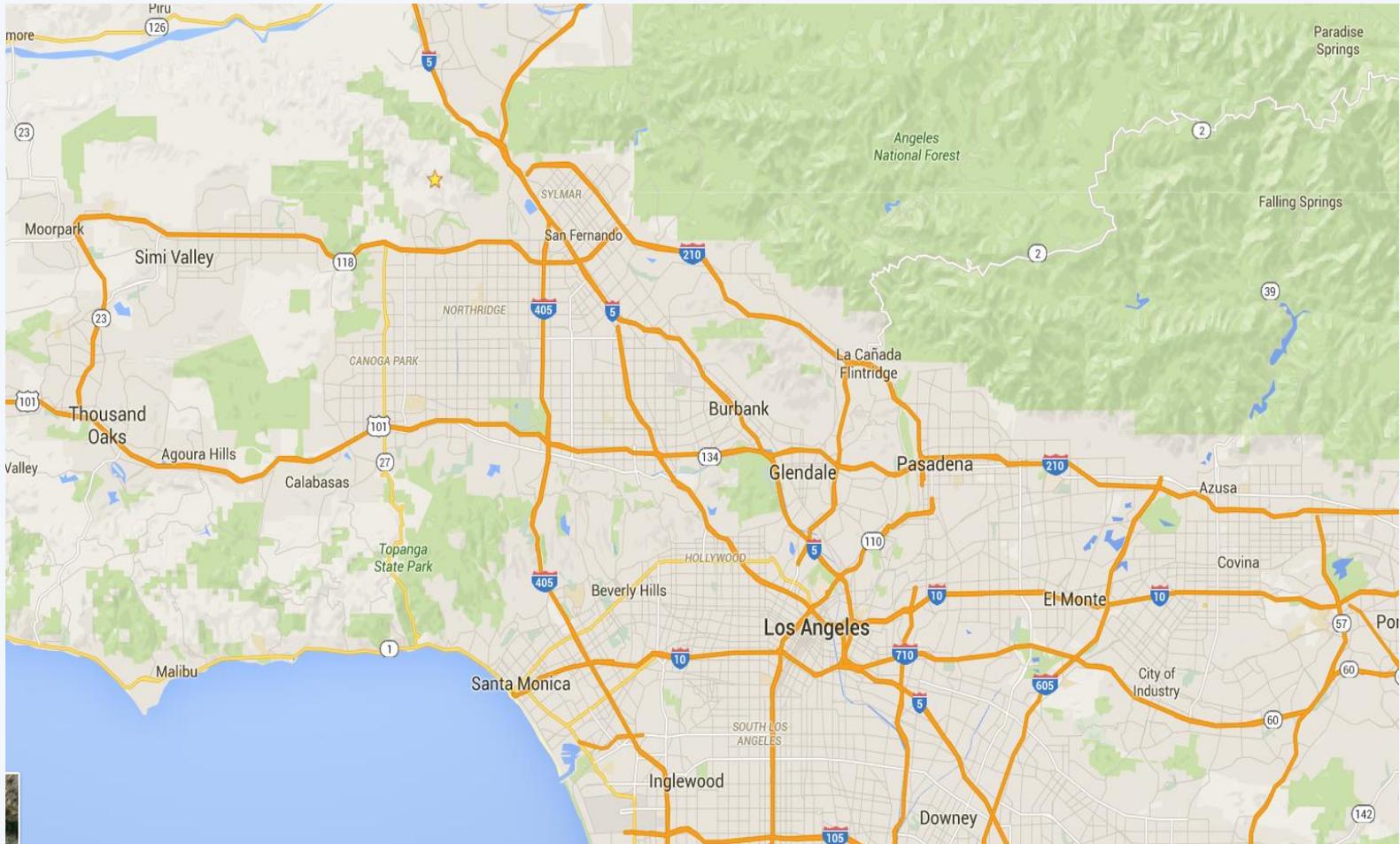
Aliso Canyon
Oil Field and
Gas Storage Facility



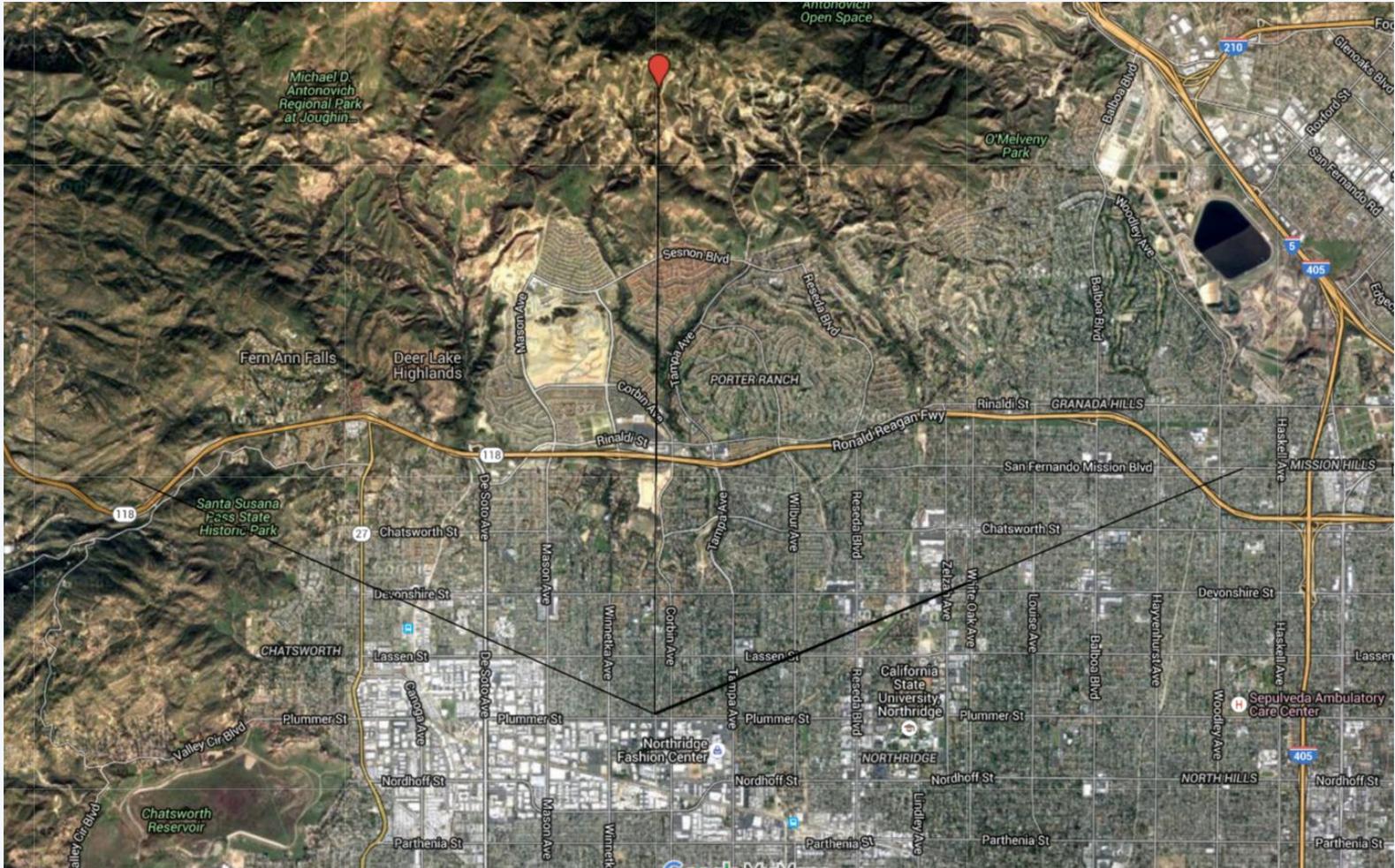
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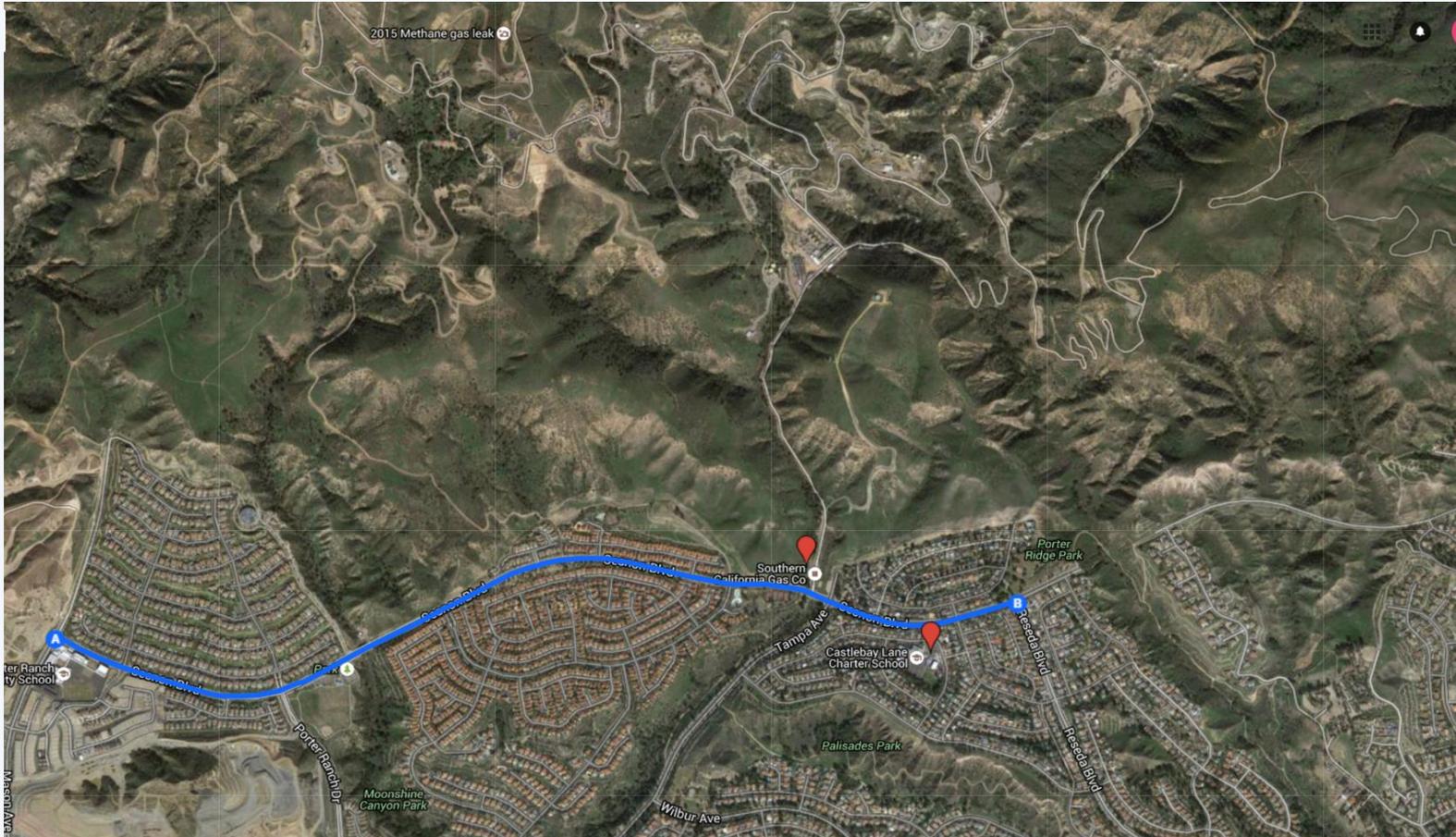
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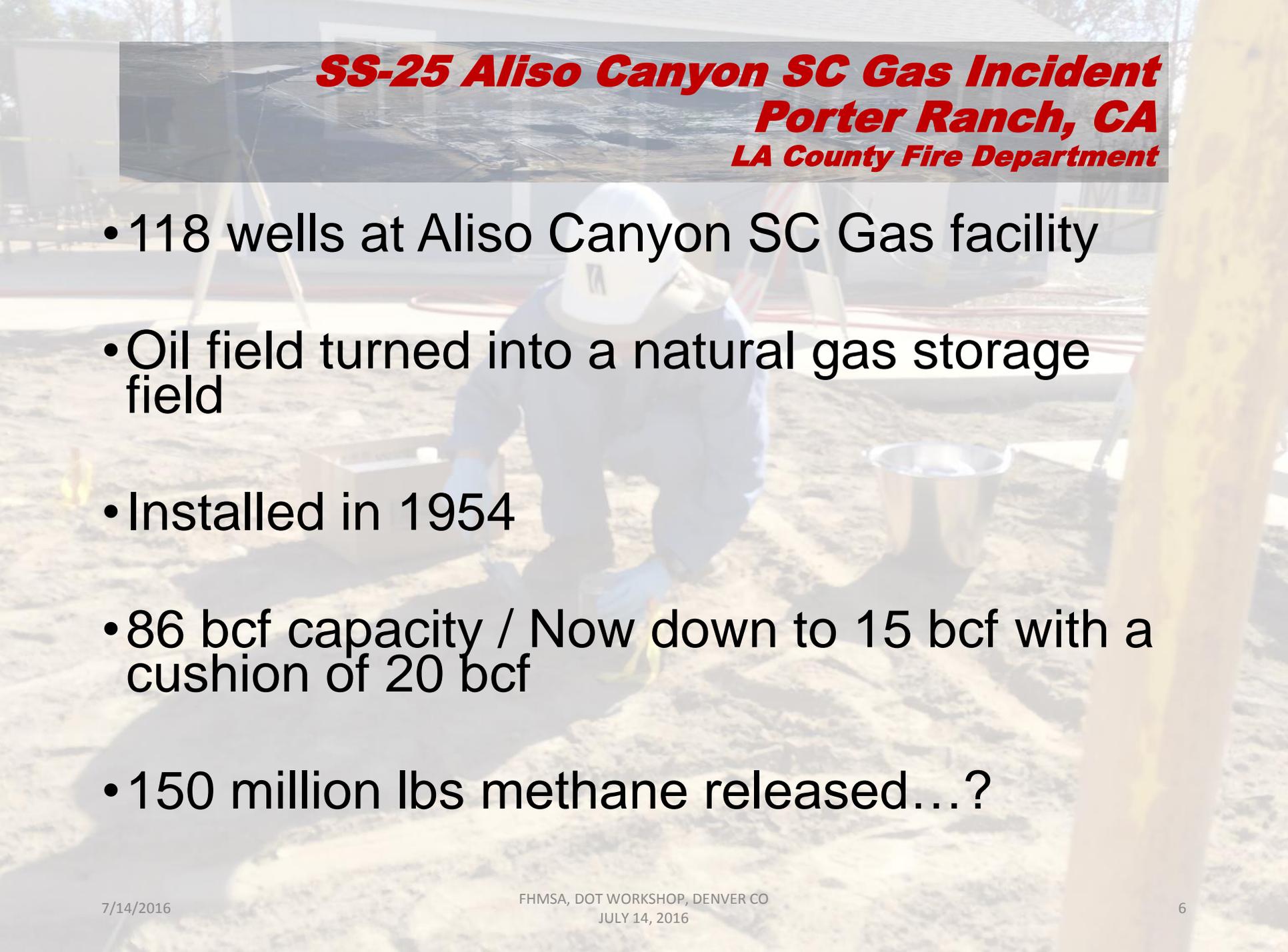


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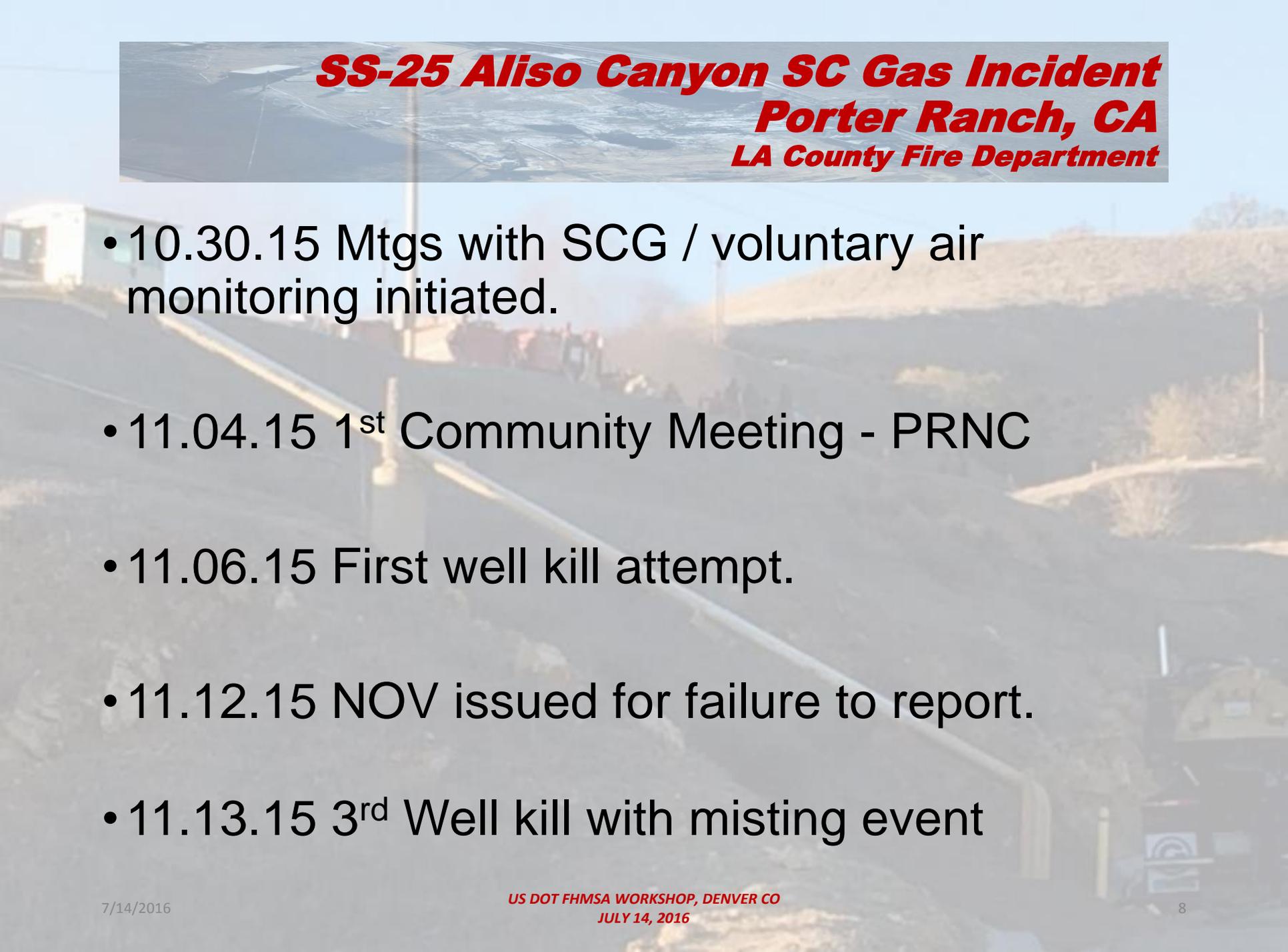
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- 118 wells at Aliso Canyon SC Gas facility
- Oil field turned into a natural gas storage field
- Installed in 1954
- 86 bcf capacity / Now down to 15 bcf with a cushion of 20 bcf
- 150 million lbs methane released...?

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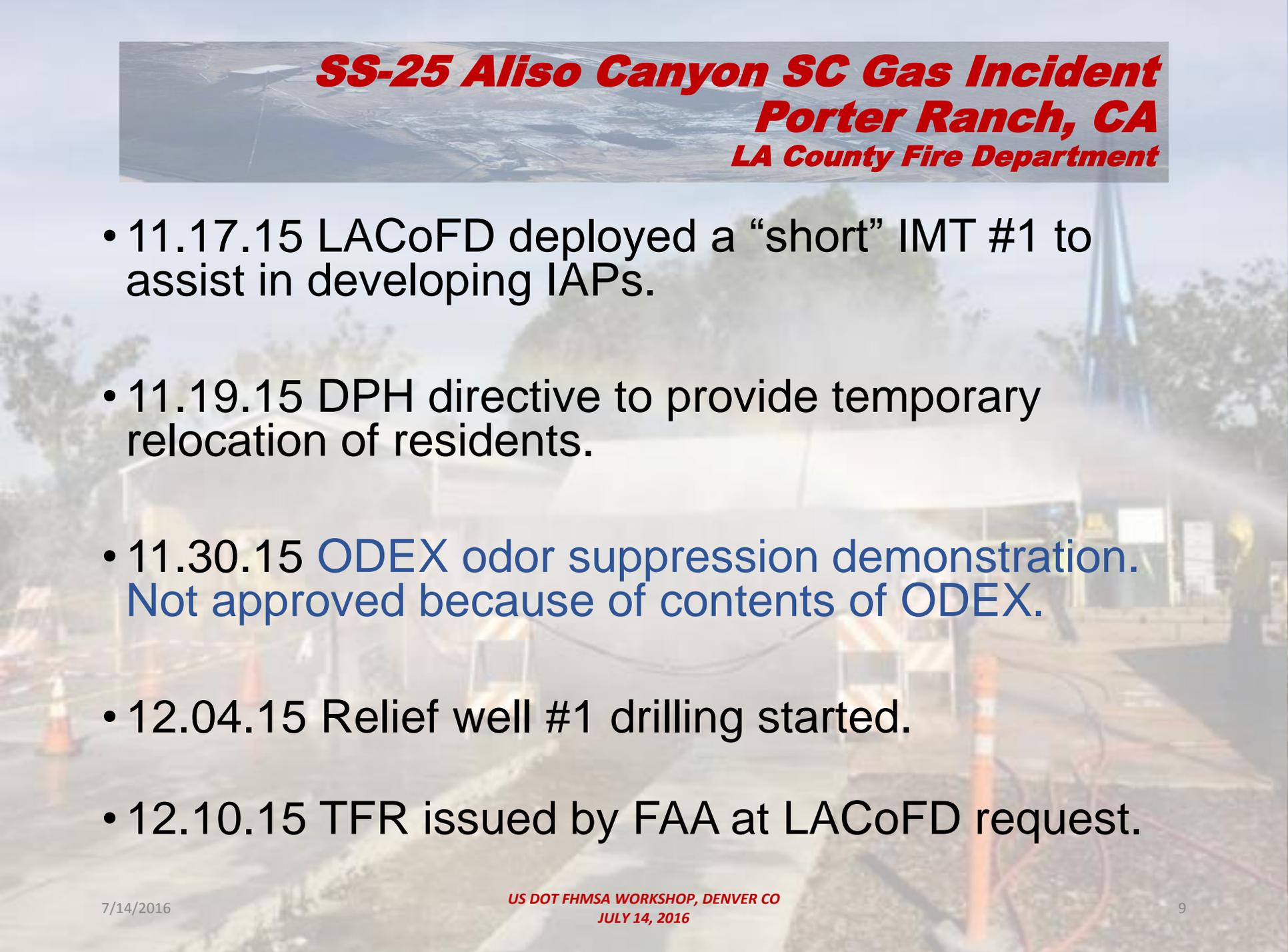
- 10.23.15 Friday, gas leak first detected by SCG
- 10.24.15 Saturday, SC AQMD received complaints and responded. Air samples taken.
- 10.24.16 911 call made by residents. Engine company advised at gate and departed. LACoFD dispatch called.
- Boots n Coots called out.
- 10.26.15 pm Monday LACoFD HHMD first aware via OES spill notification.
- Notifications made to engine companies – current crews not aware.





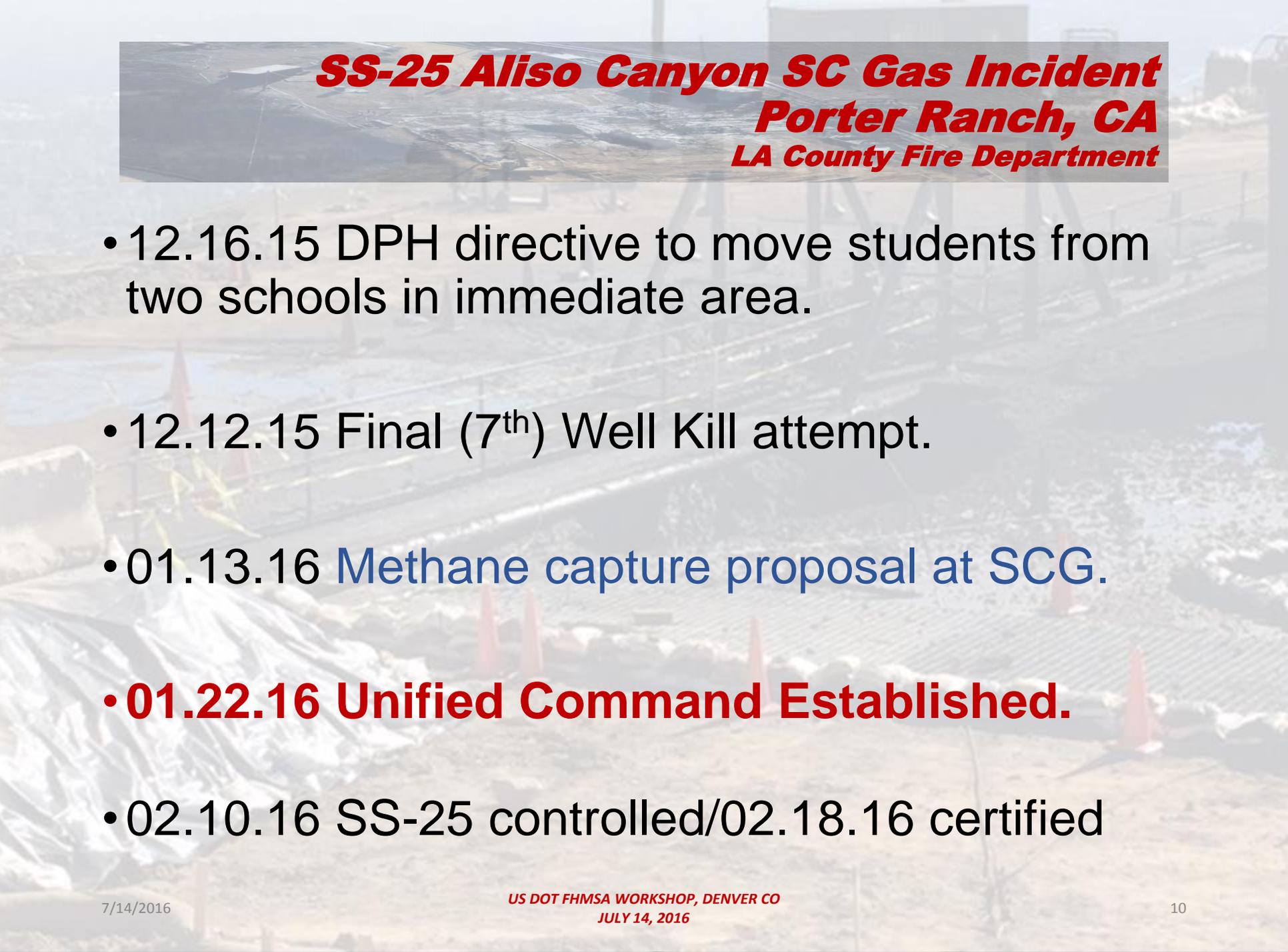
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- 10.30.15 Mtgs with SCG / voluntary air monitoring initiated.
- 11.04.15 1st Community Meeting - PRNC
- 11.06.15 First well kill attempt.
- 11.12.15 NOV issued for failure to report.
- 11.13.15 3rd Well kill with misting event



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- 11.17.15 LACoFD deployed a “short” IMT #1 to assist in developing IAPs.
- 11.19.15 DPH directive to provide temporary relocation of residents.
- 11.30.15 ODEX odor suppression demonstration. Not approved because of contents of ODEX.
- 12.04.15 Relief well #1 drilling started.
- 12.10.15 TFR issued by FAA at LACoFD request.



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- 12.16.15 DPH directive to move students from two schools in immediate area.
- 12.12.15 Final (7th) Well Kill attempt.
- 01.13.16 Methane capture proposal at SCG.
- **01.22.16 Unified Command Established.**
- 02.10.16 SS-25 controlled/02.18.16 certified



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UNIFIED COMMAND SOONER?

- FD not involved with mitigation...
- FD told it would be fixed soon...
- FD not in direct communication with DOGGR or PUC until UC established...
- FD not fully knowledgeable of all players...



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WHY START UC MIDSTREAM?

- Agencies not coordinating well
- Hundreds of samples being taken
- More dangerous operations
- Well kills not working
- Unified Command established 01.22.16



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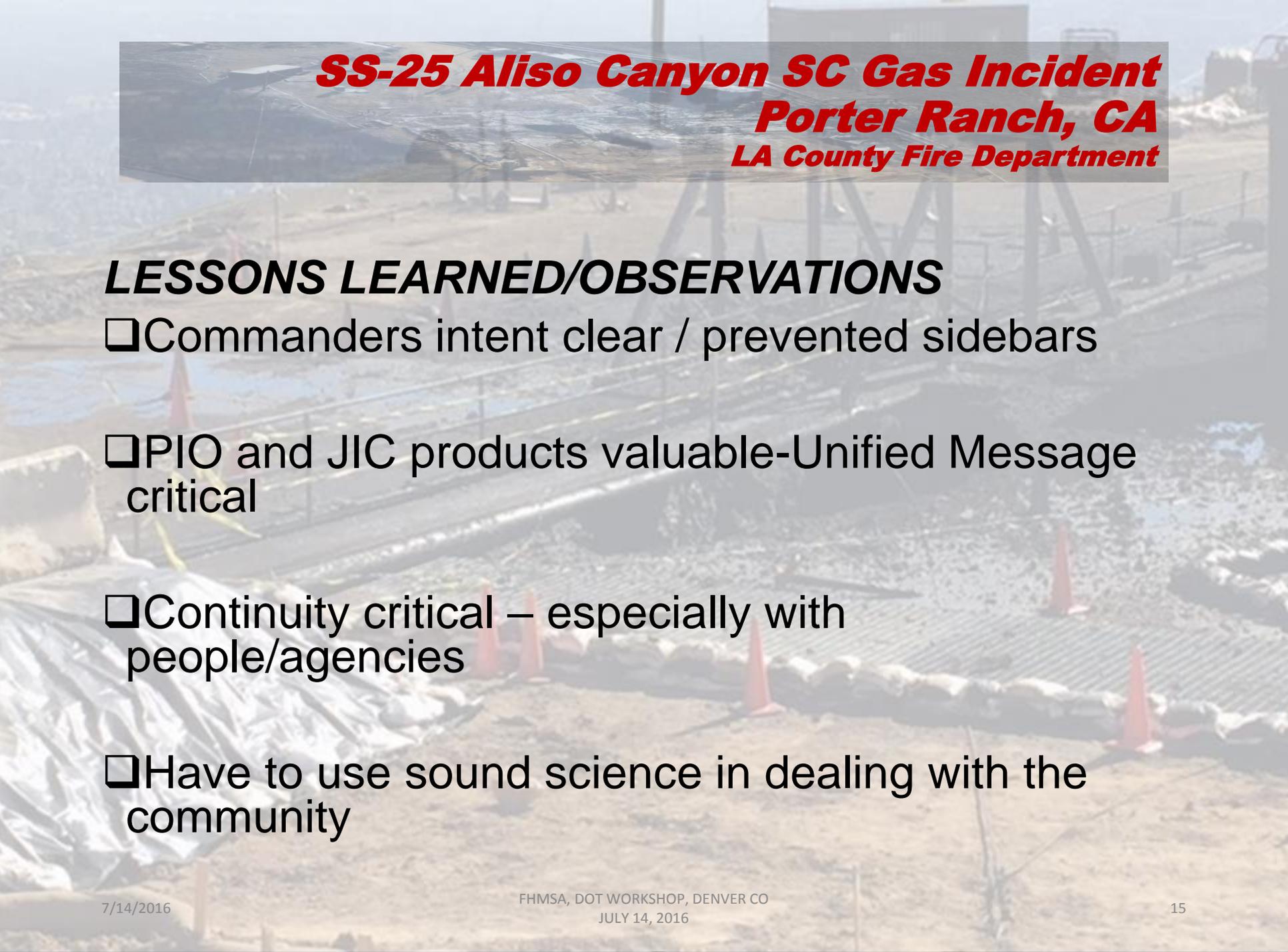
UNIFIED COMMAND

- CP set up on site
- UC brought safety, logistics, management, cooperating agency, and planning elements
- UC with So Cal Gas, DPH and LACoFD
- On critical days fire brought extra engines, USAR, EMS. Helicopter pad established.

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LESSONS LEARNED/OBSERVATIONS

- Challenges with regulatory agencies
- Cooperating agencies management (>30)
- Safety issues onsite
- Situation required trying multiple ways to mitigate the release



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LESSONS LEARNED/OBSERVATIONS

- Commanders intent clear / prevented sidebars
- PIO and JIC products valuable-Unified Message critical
- Continuity critical – especially with people/agencies
- Have to use sound science in dealing with the community



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Preplanning and drills with local authorities
- Training on response to and expectations
- Cooperating agencies must be involved & coordinated & communicating
- Redefine “stationary source” to eliminate exclusions for these type of facilities



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regulate under Cal ARP either by redefining SS or allowing locals to implement program through local ordinance.

- Subject facilities to PSM requirements

- Expand PSM to require mechanical integrity of safety critical elements among other requirements.

- Numerous bills going through CA legislature.



SS -25 INCIDENT

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