

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# UPDATE 3: Coast Guard Continues to Oversee Clean Up of Refugio Oil Spill

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SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The Unified Command is continuing clean-up operations at the Refugio Beach oil spill in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Product and water is being recovered by vacuum trucks from oil containment areas. Contractors are working to remove contained pockets of oil utilizing skimmers, vacuum trucks, absorbent pads, and absorbent boom. Additional cleanup actions are ongoing through the sandy beaches in the affected area. Approximately 3,000 feet of containment boom has been deployed.

The response has initiated an active area-sampling plan to identify areas impacted as a result of the oil spill. 24 hour ambient air testing has been initiated throughout the affected area.

The responsible party, Plains All-American Pipeline, is working closely with the responding agencies which include the Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management. More than 272 responders are taking part in the cleanup effort and more personnel enroute.

Continued assessments are being conducted via commercial aircraft alongside both commercial and Federal vessels.

El Capitan Beach has been closed to the public by California State Parks for the next 7 days until next Thursday. State Parks will be continually assessing the clean-up operation to evaluate if the closer will need to be extended.

A fishing ban has been established by the Department of Fish and Wildlife until data reflects that the fish are safe to eat. The closure is initiated from one mile east to one mile west of Refugio State Beach and a distance of ½ mile off shore.

Both shoulders of the North and South bound Highway 101 have been closed to all parking and traffic.

The direct contact for the Joint information Center is (805) 696-1188.

For individuals who want to file a claim for compensation please contact (866) 753-3619

For individuals who come across affected wildlife please contact the Oil Wildlife Care Network at 877-823-6926.

For individuals who wish to volunteer in the clean-up effort please you can find more information at [Calspillwatch.com](http://Calspillwatch.com)

If anyone comes into contact with oil and feels any symptoms to go to the nearest emergency room.

Individuals are urged to stay off area beaches as a safety measure and to stay away from petroleum products. Refugio Beach has been closed to the public.

*For more information contact:*

*Joint Information Center*

*[reply@refugioresponse.com](mailto:reply@refugioresponse.com)*