

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update 20: Unified Command continues cleanup operations

SANTA BARBARA – Members of the Refugio Oil Response Unified Command continue cleanup operations at the Refugio Oil Spill in Santa Barbara County.

Volunteer safety classes were held today in Santa Barbara to train 95 members of the public wishing to work in volunteer operations. The volunteers were given a four-hour Hazardous Waste Operations Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) class.

Members of the public interested in assisting are required to be at least 18 years of age and in good health. Volunteers are required to register at <https://calspillwatch.dfg.ca.gov/Spill-Archive/Refugio-Incident/Volunteer>. Volunteers will be contacted about task assignments and reporting locations after they register.

Refugio and El Capitan beaches remain closed to the public and will remain closed until further notice.

Canada de Alegria to Coal Oil Point fisheries still remain closed and a safety zone is currently in effect around the fisheries, which extends from west of Coal Oil Point to west of Gaviota State Beach. Mariners in the vicinity may receive broadcasts via marine band radio channel 16.

A Federal Aviation Administration flight restriction has been established in the area of the response. Aircraft not directed as part of the response may not enter the airspace of Refugio State Beach. The restriction encompasses a five-mile radius around the park with a 1,000-foot ceiling. This includes the use of drone aircraft.

The public is advised to avoid contact with the oil and to keep pets away from the area where product has accumulated. In addition, they should not attempt to rescue oiled wildlife. Untrained individuals who attempt to rescue wildlife may cause more harm than good and may injure themselves in the process. If oiled animals are scared back into the water by pets or people, their chances of survival decrease dramatically.

- To report oiled wildlife: [1-877-823-6926](tel:1-877-823-6926)
- Volunteer information: [1-800-228-4544](tel:1-800-228-4544)
- Volunteers interested in signing up for cleanup operations are required to visit <https://calspillwatch.dfg.ca.gov/Spill-Archive/Refugio-Incident/Volunteer>
- Claims number: [1-866-753-3619](tel:1-866-753-3619)
- For more information: www.refugioresponse.com

*For more information contact:
Joint Information Center
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