

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Update 22: Unified Command cleanup operations continue

The Unified Command continues to respond to the Refugio Oil Response in Santa Barbara County, California.

The Unified Command has 956 people working together in support of the response. There are 16 boats working on cleanup operations. Cleanup crews have removed over 10,000 gallons of oily water mixture, and our SCAT teams continue to comb the 7.8 miles of affected shoreline. As of 11 a.m., today, cleanup crews have removed 310 cubic yards of oiled vegetation, 760 cubic yards of oiled sand and 2,610 cubic yards of oiled soil.

In addition to the progress that cleanup crews have made, The Unified Command would like to thank the volunteers from the community who stepped forward to receive the required training to help in cleanup efforts. These training classes will continue and members of the public interested in helping should call 1-800-228-4544.

As of 6 p.m., yesterday, eight birds have been found affected by oil and four have died, resulting in a total of 25 live birds found affected by oil and 13 that have died since the response began. As of 6 p.m., yesterday, eight live mammals have been found affected by oil and two have died, resulting in a cumulative total of 18 mammals found affected by oil and eight that have died.

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

For the safety of the cleanup crews and the public, Canada de Alegria to Coal Oil Point fisheries still remain closed until further notice 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
- For more information: [www.refugioresponse.com](http://www.refugioresponse.com)

*For more information contact:*

*Joint Information Center*

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