

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Update 25: Unified Command continues to respond to the Refugio Oil Response in Santa Barbara County, California.**

Refugio and El Capitan state beaches remain closed to the public as the Unified Command continues to respond to the Refugio Oil Response in Santa Barbara County, California.

Camping reservations for El Capitan and Refugio state beaches have been cancelled through June 18, in an effort to expedite cleanup efforts. The date is subject to change as we continue to reevaluate and assess impacts every week.

As of 6 p.m. Thursday, the Unified Command has 1,193 people working together in support of the response. There are 18 boats, one barge, two helicopters, and one fixed winged aircraft working on cleanup operations. Cleanup crews have removed more than 10,480 gallons of oily water mixture, and our SCAT teams continue to comb the 27.56 miles of affected shoreline out of the 35.53 miles of surveyed shoreline.

As of 6 p.m., Thursday, cleanup crews have removed 251 cubic yards of oiled vegetation, 836.5 cubic yards of oiled sand and 2,000 cubic yards of oiled soil.

The public is advised to avoid contact with the oil and to keep pets away from the area where product has accumulated.

As of 7:20 p.m. Wednesday, a total of 39 live birds found affected by oil and 18 have died since the beginning of the response. In addition a total of 22 mammals have been found affected by oil and 10 have died.

The public 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.

The Unified Command at the Refugio oil response is aware of the tarballs discovered on 6.5 miles of shoreline at El Segundo, Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo beaches, and is working closely with the South Bay Incident Unified Command in Los Angeles. Samples are being collected from the South Bay incident for analysis and fingerprinting to determine if the pollution in the South Bay is the result of the Refugio Oil Spill or if it is the result of another source.

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 and seven miles out from the shoreline. Mariners in the vicinity may receive broadcasts via marine band radio channel 16.

A Federal Aviation Administration flight restriction is still in effect 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 Unified Command continues to monitor environmental and economic impacts. A claims line remains free and open to address personal and business losses due to the oil release.

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.

- 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](http://www.refugioresponse.com)
- Refugio State Beach information [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=601](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=601)
- El Capitan State Beach information [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=603](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=603)

For more information contact:  
Joint Information Center  
[reply@refugioresponse.com](mailto:reply@refugioresponse.com)