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UPDATE 1: South Bay Incident Unified Command continues tar ball cleanup and investigation

LOS ANGELES – The South Bay Incident Unified Command continues to cleanup and investigate the petroleum product – now identified as tar balls and tar patties, discovered on 6.5 miles of shoreline at El Segundo, Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo Beaches Wednesday.

“Response personnel are working through the night as we continue to clean and investigate the area,” said Capt. Charlene Downey, Federal On-Scene Coordinator for the response. “Our immediate focus is on public safety and protecting the environment and we are working diligently to try to determine the source.”

The beaches from El Segundo Jetty to the Torrance-Redondo Beach border are closed. Individuals are urged to stay off area beaches as a safety measure and to stay away from petroleum products. Precautionary boom is also being arranged to protect areas at King’s Harbor and Ballona Creek.

The Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Los Angeles County Lifeguards, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles Department of Public Health, the Department of Beaches and Harbors and the L.A. County Office of Emergency Management are coordinating response efforts. These agencies are directing two commercial companies to clean up the tar balls and tar patties.

Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel are scheduled to patrol the beach with personnel and boats at dawn Thursday. A Coast Guard helicopter over flight and two wildlife recovery teams will also begin patrolling the area Thursday morning.

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

For current updates follow the Coast Guards Public Affairs Los Angeles Twitter feed at <https://twitter.com/USCGLosAngeles>.