



# Refugio Response Joint Information Center

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** May 31, 2015 9:13:23 AM PDT

## **Clarification: Update 29: Unified Command continues to respond to the Refugio oil spill in Santa Barbara County, Calif.**

### Clarifications:

- Safety zone boundary clarified
- Joint Information Center phone number has changed to 805-770-3682

### Incident Summary:

The Unified Command continues to respond to the Refugio oil spill in Santa Barbara County, California. Information current as of May 29, 1900 hours.

### Specific Updates:

The Unified Command is working with Ventura County in response to tar balls washing ashore. Shoreline assessment and cleanup has been initiated for urban beaches.

Shoreline cleanup assessment teams are evaluating Ventura beaches identified as environmentally or culturally sensitive. This is nesting season for endangered snowy plovers; responders are taking great care to clean the areas without affecting the birds. Because of snowy plover presence over large areas of beach in Ventura, the speed of cleanup may be affected to prevent disturbance.

In addition to tarball sightings in Ventura County, sightings occurred on Los Angeles County beaches. Sampling occurred at all affected beaches in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Oil fingerprint analysis reports are pending.

### Response assets:

- Personnel assigned: 1,414
- Vessels assigned: 18
- SCAT teams: 5
- Helicopters: 2
- Fixed wing aircraft: 1
- Boom on water recovery: 6,000 feet
- Absorbent boom: 2,040 feet
- Hard boom: 2,540 feet
- Total boom: 10,580 feet

Cleanup continues at numerous locations from Refugio Beach to the Ventura beaches. Please report tar balls and oil on the beach to 805-696-1188 (through May 30). New reporting number is 805-770-3682 is effective May 31.

### Recovered material:

- Oiled vegetation: 300 cubic yards
- Oiled sand: 390 cubic yards
- Oiled soil: 3,348 cubic yards
- Oily water mixture: 11,600 gallons

The Unified Command has an oiled waste plan in place for the removal and proper disposal of the sand, soil, vegetation and other debris from the cleanup area.

### **Shoreline Activities**

Total surveyed shoreline: 37.45 miles

Shoreline impacted: 27.9 miles

Several dive teams are surveying the ocean floor for submerged oil that may have been deposited during the initial days of the incident. When surveys are complete, a removal plan will be put in place.

The Unified Command developed a plan for the cobble beaches which will be attended to once the remaining oil has been removed in order to prevent re-oiling.

### **Wildlife effected since response began:**

Birds recovered live:	46
Birds recovered dead:	22
Mammals recovered live:	30
Mammals recovered dead:	14

Capture and recovery teams continue to rescue wildlife affected by the incident. 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. Please report oiled wildlife sightings to 1-877-823-6926.

### **Beach Closures:**

- El Capitan State Beach
- Refugio State Beach

### **Fishery Closures:**

For the safety of the cleanup crews and the public, the fishery closure remains in effect from Canada de Alegria to Coal Oil Point fisheries and remains closed until further notice.

### **Safety Zone:**

A safety zone is currently in effect around the cleanup operations, from Coal Oil Point to Gaviota State Beach, six miles of shoreline extending 500 yards offshore. Mariners in the vicinity may receive broadcasts via marine band radio channel 16.

### **Temporary Flight Restriction:**

A Federal Aviation Administration flight restriction remains 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.

Claims number: [1-866-753-3619](tel:1-866-753-3619)

- 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: [www.refugioresponse.com](http://www.refugioresponse.com)
- Joint Information Center number change: 805-770-3682

For more information contact:

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