



Refugio Response Joint Information Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Refugio Oil Spill Response: Progress Update

Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique teams, made up of scientists trained in evaluating oil coverage on shorelines, survey beaches and report on their status.



The survey results drive where cleanup operations will occur. Survey work includes looking at the high and low tide areas, examining the area below the sand, down to two feet, and checking all of the rock and other beach structures for oiling. For the Southern California area, natural seeps are part of the natural state of the environment. Once the beaches are signed off they will return to their natural state that includes the presence of tar and oil from natural seeps.

SCAT teams for the Refugio Incident reported 12 sections of shoreline from Santa Barbara Harbor to Rincon Point met cleanup goals.

These goals include:

- Coastal cliffs have no more than 10 percent oil stain or coat over the entire survey area;
- Gravel, including cobblestones, has less than 10 percent coverage over the entire survey area;
- The surveyed area contains one percent or less of tar balls, tar patties, or tar mats on sandy beaches;
- No oil found two feet below the surface of gravel and sand;
- Boulders, bedrock, seawall, pier structure and rip-rap, stone or material used to reinforce shores or banks, have no more than 10 percent oil over the entire survey area, and produce a sheen.



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