

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

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CDFW Holds First Inland Oil Spill Response Equipment Training in the Alta Area

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), oversaw oil spill equipment training for members of the Alta Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) earlier today. Alta was the first inland agency awarded the spill equipment grant since OSPR went statewide in 2014.

"In 2014 Governor Brown expanded our program statewide, now we want to bring the same level of oil spill protection we've provided the coast for over 20 years to inland communities like Alta," said Local Government Outreach and Grant Coordinator Cindy Murphy. "It's crucial that we all work together to preserve these vital areas."

The training included a four hour classroom instruction session, followed by four hours of hands-on oil spill equipment deployment training by spill response professionals.

OSPR awarded the Alta Fire Protection District a \$30,000 grant for response equipment in June to strengthen oil spill preparedness and response at the North Fork of the American River.

The grant provides 1,000 feet of containment boom, absorbent materials, a mobile trailer, and eight hours of training, which crews received today.

OSPR began offering equipment grants in 2007 and it has since provided nearly \$1 million to more than 40 local government agencies and tribes in California.

"We are pleased to be awarded the first inland grant for oil response equipment and training to protect fish, wildlife, and plants along the crucial waterways of the North Fork of the American River," said Bryce Birkman, Division Chief and CERT Program Manager with the Alta Fire Protection District.

Equipment grants are available to any local public agency or tribe in the State of California. In order to be considered, agencies must be at risk of an oil spill occurring in their jurisdiction. To learn more about the Response Equipment Grant Program, please go to

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Response/Response-Equipment-Grants>

While OSPR and its federal partners focus upon public safety and environmental response during an oil spill, OSPR recognizes the importance of protecting economic areas like the North Fork of the American River that are crucial to a community's livelihood and quality of life.

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This is the fourth year of California's drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, please visit drought.ca.gov.

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at saveourwater.com

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Like CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response at www.facebook.com/CalSpillWatch and follow us on Twitter [@CalSpillWatch](https://twitter.com/CalSpillWatch)

During an oil spill incident, please visit <https://calspillwatch.dfg.ca.gov> for the latest news and information.

When you file your California income tax return, please consider making a voluntary contribution to the California Sea Otter Fund (line 410) or the Rare and Endangered Species Fund (line 403). Thank you!

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