



Unified Command News Release

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Gasoline spill at Pillar Point Harbor

The U.S. Coast Guard and the California Department of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) are directing the clean-up of a gasoline spill that occurred at Pillar Point Harbor (in Half Moon Bay), last night. The source of the spill, estimated to be approximately 1,021 gallons, is an under-dock fuel line that connects a gasoline storage tank to a fuel dispenser on the dock.

Harbormaster Dan Temko notified the Coast Guard, OSPR, and other appropriate agencies after discovering the leak around 6:00 P.M. The Half Moon Bay Fire Dept. arrived quickly and remained on-scene overnight. Others responding last night included the San Mateo County Harbor District, Department of Environmental Health, and Hazardous Materials Response Team. Due to gasoline's high flammability, county fire officials ordered an evacuation of the harbor area. In addition, the harbor was closed to all traffic at 6:30 last night. Throughout the evening, the County Hazardous Materials Response Team monitored air quality and determined that levels were not hazardous.

The Coast Guard Cutter SOCKEYE patrolled the harbor enforcing its closure until 11:30 P.M. At that time, boats were allowed to dock and Pillar Point Harbor Patrol escorted the boaters from the area. The harbor was re-opened to people and vessels at 7:00 this morning. There is currently no observable gasoline on the water.

National Response Corporation was contracted by the harbormaster to perform any clean-up action required, under supervision of the Coast Guard and OSPR. The cause of the leak is unknown and under investigation. The fuel line must be inspected and approved by the San Mateo County Dept. of Environmental Health before being returned to service.

Thus far, observers have seen no wildlife affected by the spill, however, OSPR will continue with an environmental assessment. "Right now, we think the only wildlife impact will be to fixed organisms, like mollusks and invertebrates, on the pilings and sea walls," said Fish and Game Warden John Sutton.

