

Date: November 5, 1997

Humboldt Bay Oil Spill Update

CONTACT:

Contact: Joint Information Center

Phone: (707) 445-0844, ext. 7124

Time: 7:00 p.m

Humboldt Bay---Eureka, California

SPILL: 5100 gallons of bunker-C #6 fuel oil spilled into Humboldt Bay, at 4:20 a.m. today when the M/V Kure, a 639 foot freighter of Panamanian registry, collided with the Louisiana Pacific Dock. The oil slick has contaminated an area of approximately five miles, from the Bay entrance to Bird Island.

WILDLIFE: Threatened sensitive areas include Palco Marsh, Arcata Bay, and Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Protective booms have been placed at the mouth of Elk River, the mouth of South Bay, north side of Indian Island, and along a section of shoreline west of Eureka.

Reports of oiled wildlife should be made to the Humboldt State University Marine Wildlife Care Center at (707) 826-3450. The public should not approach or touch any wildlife. Injured animals may strike out at people trying to help them.

RESPONSE: A Unified Command has been established. Approximately 200 response personnel are on-scene, including U.S. Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services, Humboldt County Sheriff's Department, and Humboldt State University Wildlife Care Center.

Oil Spill response organizations involved include ACTI, Clean Pacific, Erikson, FOSS, Marine Spill Response Corporation, SMQI Services, Inc., spill management team for the responsible party.

Response objectives are to contain and skim oil from the central bay. Product covers the water from slightly north of the Samoa Bridge to the mouth of the Bay, along the east side of the north spit. The South Bay is protected by boom, although a sheen has been observed there. The outgoing tide is expected to keep product from going beyond Bird Island. Limited vacuum truck and shoreline clean-up operations will continue through the night.

Response equipment on-scene:

10 vacuum trucks, 2 tugs, 2 barges, 10 small boats, 6 skimmers, 1 skimming vessel

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Media Advisory:

The Unified Command will hold a news conference November 6 at 11: a.m.
at the DoubleTree Hotel on Fourth Street, in Eureka.

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