



# *Unified Command News Release*



## **SAN MATEO MYSTERY OIL SPILL**

**DATE:** January 23, 2002

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

### **Oiled Wildlife Care Center needs more volunteer help**

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With the number of seabirds oiled in the ongoing San Mateo Mystery Oil Spill approaching 1300, the San Francisco Bay Oiled Wildlife Care and Education Center in Cordelia is asking for additional volunteer assistance.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, and no previous experience or training is needed for most volunteer positions. Volunteers work four-hour shifts, helping the professional staff prepare bird food, clean pools and wash soiled towels. Shifts run from 8 A.M. to noon, noon to 4 P.M., and 4 P.M. to 8 P.M. People who would like to work directly with the injured birds must first complete a four-hour training class, which will be offered at the Center on January 26, 27, and 28. Potential volunteers should call the center at 707-207-0380, extension 107.

Of the 1,298 oiled birds captured or collected to date, 560 were alive and 738 were dead on arrival. Of the 560 live birds, 48 are still receiving care; 332 have died, and 180 have been cleaned, rehabilitated, and returned to the wild.

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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#### **WEBSITES:**

Oiled Wildlife Care Network — <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/owcn/default.asp>

International Bird Rescue Research Center — <http://www.ibrrc.org>

Dept. of Fish & Game - OSPR — <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Ospr/index.html>

U.S. Coast Guard — <http://www.uscg.mil/D11/index.htm>

