

## Volunteer Fact Sheet

Long Beach, CA – In response to the oil spill in Long Beach Harbor, the (U.S. Coast Guard / Office of Spill Prevention and Response / Oiled Wildlife Care Network) has/have activated a Volunteer Hotline (1-800-228-4544). The Volunteer Hotline will be updated frequently with information on the spill and the response, and callers can leave a message noting their name, phone number, skills, and availability to help.

Volunteers have been extensively used in previous oil spill responses, with activities coordinated through a Unified Command (a decision structure that includes federal and state government representatives). By calling the Volunteer Hotline number, prospective volunteers will get the most up-to-date information on whether their time and skills will be needed to support the Unified Command in its response to possible wildlife impacts.

Volunteers and other people are advised to stay away from the spill site, as their presence can hamper clean-up efforts and increase the danger to both wildlife and humans. Oil is a hazardous material, and to work in or near the oil, one is required to have completed appropriate Hazardous Materials training. Additionally, for the safety of both the public and the animals, only trained wildlife specialists will handle oiled wildlife.

The public can help at this time by reporting any oiled animals to the OWCN at 877-823-6926. Personnel experienced in animal capture and handling will respond at the earliest opportunity, presenting the best chance for wildlife survival. The public's cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Please call the Volunteer Hotline (1-800-228-4544) for frequent recorded updates.