

City of Huntington Beach

Oil Spill 2021

Emergency Declaration Consideration

October 4, 2021



Current Situational Overview

- **This past Saturday, October 2, a major oil spill occurred off the coast of Huntington Beach**
 - It appears that the spill occurred from a ruptured distribution line connected to the oil platform Elly
 - Elly is run by Beta Operating Company, a California subsidiary of Houston-based Amplify Energy Corporation
 - The clean-up response is being coordinated by the Unified Command, under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard and through an Incident Management Team (IMT) structure
- **Current estimates indicate that ~144,000 gallons of oil have been spilled, and current clean-up and recovery effort details are as follows**
 - Main oil spill impacts are now moving south along the Orange County coast, away from Huntington Beach
 - Oil dispersants are not currently being used as part of the clean-up efforts
 - 14 boats are skimming the Orange County coastline to remove oil from the ocean before it reaches the shore
 - Response operations are currently staged at Huntington State Beach by Brookhurst
 - 320 personnel have been deployed on the ground throughout the County to perform oil clean-up activities
 - 8,700 feet of containment booms have been deployed County-wide to protect sensitive areas from oil
 - AQMD is monitoring air quality for any health concerns
 - Orange County Health Care Agency has set-up a health-related hotline for those with questions

Emergency Declaration Overview

- **For the past few days, Huntington Beach has been the City most impacted by the oil spill in Orange County**
 - Access to the surf line and ocean water in Huntington Beach are currently closed from Seapoint to the Santa Ana River Jetty
 - The City is assessing the situation and if the recovery situation improves in the coming days, we will be assessing the viability of reopening ocean access north of the Pier
 - Mitigation booms have been installed at 7 ecologically sensitive locations in Huntington Beach and additional wetland response plans have been developed if the situation warrants
- **To facilitate procurement and reimbursement related activities, it is recommended that the City Council proclaim the existence of a local emergency in Huntington Beach**

Coordination With Orange County

- **Orange County will be declaring a County-wide local emergency tonight, given the impacts that the oil spill is having along our entire coast**
 - Given the nature of the incident, coupled with an uneven initial response from the Unified Command responding to the oil spill, the County has also activated their EOC
- **During the past few days, as the Unified Command structure has been developed, clean-up activities and oil spill information has been inconsistent**

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **9:00 a.m.**

- City personnel were informed via announcement made on VHF Channel 16 by US Coast Guard of a possible oil spill in the area of Huntington Beach, however, no specific details or intelligence was made available

- **10:30 a.m.**

- The Coast Guard advised that the spill could be larger than originally thought, and that air assets were being deployed to survey the scope and severity of the oil spill
- Very little information was provided though regarding the location and scope of the situation

- **11:00 a.m.**

- The Coast Guard advised that the spill was being classified as a major spill, and that an Incident Management Team (IMT) was being activated

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **12:00 p.m.**

- The City received information that the oil impact could reach Huntington Beach
- City personnel began collaborating, and a determination was made that if the situation warranted, we would begin local response operations beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- Response operations were driven by our marine oil spill protocols, which calls for the City to implement boom mitigations at the:
 - Talbert Inlet Channel
 - Bolsa Chica Wetlands entrance near Warner Fire Station
 - Talbert Marsh entrance near Brookhurst / PCH

- **2:00 p.m.**

- The Coast Guard advised the City that the new spread model indicated that the oil spill would not reach our shores until October 4
- This information was provided with very little context, and few details were provided regarding the location and scope of the oil spill situation

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **2:30 p.m.**

- The City command post at Jr. Lifeguard Headquarters received our first report that oil was impacting boats on the outer edge of the Air Show flight box, and rescue vessels assigned to the Air Show conducted patrol checks to assess the size and scope of oil spill near our shore
- City Fire Department crews, our haz mat teams, and our oil spill response trailer were dispatched to the Talbert Inlet Channel (TIC) to begin mitigation efforts

- **2:45 p.m.**

- The City was informed by Newport Beach Rescue Vessel that private contractors were conducting oil spill clean-up operations on south end of Air Show flight box, and that a large amount of oil was impacting the Air Show flight box
- Subsequently, the Coast Guard made an announcement on VHF Channel 16 that boaters could expect the closure of Huntington Harbor
- The Huntington Harbor announcement was only made one time, and was then canceled by the Coast Guard
- The Coast Guard then advised the City again that their new oil spread model showed that the spill would not reach our shores until October 4

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **4:00 p.m.**

- The City began efforts to install boom protective measures at ecologically sensitive areas
 - Talbert Inlet Channel – soft booms were installed to protect the Bolsa Chica Wetlands
 - Warner Bridge off PCH – hard booms were installed to protect the Bolsa Chica Wetlands
 - Warner Fire Station – hard booms were installed to protect the Bolsa Chica Wetlands
 - Talbert Marsh – soft booms were installed to protect the Talbert Marsh

- **4:45 p.m.**

- The City made the decision to close the water in the area from the Huntington Beach Pier south to Beach Boulevard
- CA State Parks also conducted a water closure of Huntington State Beach from Beach Boulevard to Brookhurst Street

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **5:30 p.m.**

- State Parks reported that oil was being seen 300 yards outside of surfline near Magnolia and Brookhurst
- The City placed a request into Anaheim and OCFA for additional soft booms

- **6:10 p.m.**

- The City conducted aerial surveillance in our Police helicopter and it was determined that oil spill stretched south to the Balboa Pier, with the northern boundary in Huntington Beach at Newland Street
- At the time, the oil spill appeared to be around 2.8 nautical miles off the coast, and stretched 5.8 nautical miles in length

- **7:00 p.m.**

- The City observed that oil had reached the shoreline in Huntington State Beach at Newland, and small oil splotch segments were being observed as far north as the HB Pier













































Wildlife Rescue Support Information

- **If you see injured wildlife, please contact Oiled Wildlife Care Network**
 - (877) 823-6926
- **The City has also partnered with the HB Wetlands and their *Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center* to support wildlife rescue operations**
 - The HB Wetlands facility is located on Newland Avenue at PCH
 - (714) 374-5587

Beach Clean-Up Volunteer Support Information

- **For those interested in volunteering to support beach clean-up efforts, the City has partnered with Surfrider Foundation**
 - Of note... at this time, please do not head down to the beach for clean-up activities!
- **If you are interested, you can register with the Surfrider Foundation, and they will contact individuals at the appropriate time**
- **<https://cleanups.surfrider.org/>**

Private Vessel Damage Claims

- For those who have experienced oil-related damage to their boat vessel, the Unified Command responsible for coordinating clean-up efforts has set-up a private vessel damage claims process
- Global Risk Solutions
 - Telephone: (866) 985-8366
 - Reference: Pipeline P00547 Incident

Economic Damage Claims

- For anyone who has experienced economic damages, the Unified Command group has set-up a hotline to file a report
- (866) 985-8366

Orange County Health Care Agency Hotline

- For anyone who has a health-related question, call the Orange County Health Care Agency hotline
- (714) 834-2000

City Information Hotline

- The City has set-up a specific oil spill hotline number
- (714) 374-1702
 - City representatives will be available from 8am – 5pm
 - Messages left after hours will be responded to the next day