

REFUGIO OIL SPILL FACT SHEET

May 29, 2015



The Spill - May 19, 2015

At approximately 11 am on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, an onshore pipeline owned by Plains All American Pipeline ruptured, spilling 101,000 gallons of crude oil onto the Gaviota Coast near Refugio State Beach, 23 miles west of Santa Barbara, California. An estimated 21,000 gallons spilled into the Santa Barbara Channel, creating a slick that has spread to cover 13 square miles. Nearly 24 miles of shoreline have been impacted to date. The spill forced the closure of Refugio and El Capitan state beaches as well as fisheries from Canada de Alegria to Coal Oil Point (23 miles) and out six miles offshore.

The spill threatens the Gaviota Coast, which serves as a playground for nature lovers, campers and ocean recreationists, and supports an incredible array of marine life, including many species of whales, dolphins and sea birds, as well as valuable commercial and recreational fisheries like lobster, urchin and halibut. This stretch of coastline is also home to four marine protected areas, including Naples Reef and Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Areas, both located within 10 miles of the oil spill.

Click [here](#) for a map of the area impacted by the spill.

Plains All American Pipeline

The pipeline that ruptured was the Las Flores to Gaviota pipeline, known as Line 901, and is owned by Plains All American Pipeline. The 10-mile, 24" buried pipeline, constructed in 1987, originates at the Las Flores Canyon Oil and Gas Processing Facility east of Refugio State Beach and extends west to the Gaviota Pump Station, where it connects to the main All American Pipeline system coursing northeast into San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties. Line 901 has the capacity to transport approximately 150,000 barrels (6.3 million gallons) of crude oil per day from ExxonMobil's offshore platforms (Heritage, Harmony and Hondo) to oil refineries in southern California. At the time of the spill, the pipeline was carrying 1,300 barrels of Las Flores Canyon Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) crude oil per hour, below its maximum capacity of 2,000 barrels per hour.

Plains All American Pipeline has a long track record of safety violations and spills. There were 10 major spills from its pipelines between June 2004 and September 2007 alone, spilling 273,420 gallons of crude oil into waters or shorelines in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Kansas. The company and its subsidiaries have reported at least 223 accidents along their lines and spilled a total of 834,300 gallons of hazardous liquids since 2006, according to federal records. It has been subject to 25 enforcement actions by federal regulators, with damages topping \$43 million.

Spill Response

The spill response is being led by Unified Command, which is comprised of representatives from the US Coast Guard, US Environmental Protection Agency, Santa Ynez Chumash Tribe, Owl Clan Consultant representing three clans (Barbareno, Coastal and Southern Owl), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Response, and Plains All American Pipeline. The responsible party, Plains All American Pipeline, is paying for the clean-up and associated damages.

Unified Command is overseeing operations on 24 miles of shoreline from Gaviota to Coal Oil Point, 30 miles of offshore waters, and inland where the spill originated. Response personnel are conducting clean-up of oil on the shoreline and several vessels are conducting booming and skimming operations. No dispersants are being used.

What You Can Do

Volunteer: So many people want to volunteer to help with the clean-up, but untrained volunteers should not attempt to clean up oil on the beach or to rescue oiled wildlife! Oil is toxic, and spill response volunteers must be trained to handle hazardous materials and oiled wildlife. Unified Command is providing Hazard Safety Communication Training to members of the public. Interested citizens must be at least 18 years old and must pre-register [here](#). For additional information, click [here](#).

Report oiled wildlife: Sightings of oiled wildlife should be reported to the Oiled Wildlife Care Network by calling (877) 823-6926.

Report oil: If you see tar balls or oil on the beach or water, call (800) 424-8802 or (805) 696-1188.

Submit a claim for damages: If the spill has directly impacted you and/or your business, you can submit a claim to recover personal and business losses by calling (866) 753-3619 or clicking [here](#).

Submit public comments: Email refugiospillcomments@countyofsb.org.

Stay informed: For photos, videos and live updates from Channelkeeper via land, sea, and air, visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. For updated information on the spill response from Unified Command, visit the [Refugio Response Joint Information Center](#).

Support Channelkeeper: With our technically and scientifically trained staff, our patrol boat, large force of volunteers, close working relationships with other environmental groups and local, state and federal agencies, and direct line to Waterkeepers who led the response to the Deepwater Horizon and other major spills, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is uniquely qualified and equipped to play a critical role in the response effort. Using our strategic brand of research, monitoring, communications and advocacy, we are working tirelessly to investigate the circumstances behind the spill, monitor its impacts on the environment, assist in the clean-up, keep the public informed, and advocate for policy reforms to ensure that a disaster like this can't happen again. Please help us make a difference by [donating](#) to Channelkeeper's Spill Watch Fund today.