

Incident Command Post Matagorda
Texas City Y Spill
"Success Is Our Only Option"

Status as of:
8 APRIL 2014 / 1500
POC: Incident Commander: 361-533-3618

Executive Summary

Incident Command Post (ICP) Matagorda continues to productively manage response operations within the Sector Corpus Christi AOR. The Unified Command is comprised of representatives of the United States Coast Guard, the Texas General Land Office, Calhoun County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Kirby Inland Marine. The ICP, located in Port O'Connor, Texas, currently oversees operations from South Matagorda Island to the Southwestern Border, Rio Grande River located in Brownsville, TX, which is over 185 miles of response activity. A staging area is located in Port O'Connor, TX.

Current Impacts:

- The majority of heavy oiling on South Matagorda Island is buried under 2 inches of sand by wave activity. NOAA SSC estimates 70% of the oil on South Matagorda Island spanning 4.3 miles of shoreline is targeted for manual removal.
- Oil consisting of small to large tarballs, patties, and matts to a viscous black, tacky mass is intermittently spread out among surface oil debris with the greatest impact to South Matagorda Island shoreline. Approximately 95% of the oil is buried on the beach, versus 25% on the surface (impacts validated by SCAT).
- Response to oiled areas on Matagorda Island Wildlife Refuge threatens sensitive and endangered species habitat areas.

Potential Impacts:

- ***No oil has been observed offshore from South Matagorda Island to the Southwestern Border by NOAA overflights since 30MAR14. Oil that moved southwest along the coastline was observed spreading into sheens and scattered stringers, patches and tarballs. The southernmost extent of observed oil offshore was 21 miles south of the Padre Island National Seashore, 95 miles north of the U.S. Mexican border. NOAA oil trajectories, overflights, and shoreline oiling patterns indicate all the oil has stranded on the Texas shoreline and no additional offshore oil has been observed or reported. There is no expectation of any significant concentration of oil that could be measured above background levels to be transported further south into Mexican Waters.***
- There is an extremely low risk of oil mobilization off South Matagorda Island due to light southeast winds and neap tides.

Response Efforts:

- **South Matagorda Island:** Task Forces conducted manual and light mechanical removal of oily waste:
 - workers manually shoveling oily waste into piles
 - front-end loaders retrieving the piles and dumping directly into dump trucks
 - A total of 9 dump trucks removed oiled sand to a waste disposal facility in Alvin, TX with the total amount to be determined upon arrival at disposal facility.
- Continue removal of oil from South Matagorda Island as described.
- **Mustang Island:** Stakeholder's signed off on cleanup completion 8APR14.
- Total amount of oily waste recovered to date throughout area of responsibility is 639,650 lbs.

Future Efforts/Plans:

- Plans in progress: Emergency Biological Evaluation & Documentation Plan, Wildlife Disturbance Risk Assessment, and Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure

Impact Measurements:

- Wildlife Impacts: The Wildlife Group continues to conduct wildlife recovery efforts in the AOR. To date, 157 individual animals have been collected; 72 were visibly oiled.
- Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge, Sensitive Resources: Sensitive areas include the tidal flats, shell ridges and marshes that are home to Mottled Ducks, and the endangered Piping Plover, Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, Aplomado Falcon and Whooping Crane.
- Approximately 88.6 miles of total shoreline was impacted by oil from South Matagorda Island to the southern end of North Padre Island National Seashore (Mansfield Cut). Mustang Island and North Padre Island National Seashore have entered a 2-week monitoring period on 6APR14 - 20APR14.
 - 25.06 miles of South Matagorda Shoreline impacted by oil
 - 14.1 miles of Mustang Island impacted by tarballs
 - 49.5 miles of North Padre National Island Seashore impacted by tarballs
 - No oil debris collected on San Jose Island due to it being a private island, landowner did not want oil cleanup/recovery.

Weather:

- Today's weather consisted of NW winds, with gusts at 25 kts in the afternoon that could impact small crafts. Small Craft Advisory in effect until 1800.
- No impacts forecasted on Wednesday with increasing SE winds Thursday-Saturday and gusts in the afternoon. A cold front and chance of showers/thunderstorms is forecasted for late Sunday into Monday.

External Affairs:

- Interaction with media consisted of fielding calls from local media reporters on current cleanup operations and informing them of the successful media day held on 7APR14 with 7 media outlets.

- Unified Command was present to address Stakeholders via Web X teleconference, along with scientific support from NOAA, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the National Weather Service. Elected local, county, and state officials, Emergency Management Coordinators (EMC), and Port Authorities from counties south of Matagorda Island participated. No concerns were brought up by Stakeholders.
- Meeting with Port O' Connor Chamber of Commerce 14APR14
- VIP Visits:
 - Captain Brian Penoyer, Wednesday 9APR14

Personnel / Agencies Involved: 580 total (ICP: 122 Field: 458)

- U.S. Coast Sector Corpus Christi (34 persons)
- U.S. Coast Guard Strike Team (10 Persons)
- U.S. Coast Guard IMAT (6 Person)
- Other U.S. Coast Guard Units (2)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Refuge
- Texas General Land Office (TGLO)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife (TP&W)
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Calhoun County

Enclosures:

(1) 3 Photos

How do you carve a big piece of wood?
Wittle by wittle