

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

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

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## 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.

### Current Impacts:

- The majority of oil debris on South Matagorda Island is buried under 2-4 inches of sand by wave activity. NOAA SSC estimates 70% of the oil on South Matagorda Island within 4.3 miles is targeted for mechanical and manual removal.
- Heavy black oil consisting of small to large tarballs/patties/matts to a viscous black, tacky mass is intermittently spread out among surface oil debris with the greatest impact to South Matagorda Island shoreline (impacts validated by SCAT), and 95% of the oil is buried on the beach, versus 25% of oiled wrack (surface debris).
- 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 to spread 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.***
- With north or light southeast winds and low neap tides over the next few days, there is an extremely low risk of oil mobilization off South Matagorda Island.

**Response Efforts:**

- Rapid Assessment Teams conducted assessments on Matagorda Island to assist the delineation team in locating heavily oiled areas.
- **South Matagorda Island:** Task Forces conducted manual and light mechanical removal operations today. Total amount of oily waste recovered: 85,825 lbs.
- **Mustang Island:** Task Forces completed recovery of tarballs and oiled sargassum, anticipate Stakeholder sign-offs 7APR14.
- Total amount of oily waste recovered to date throughout area of response remains at 304,850 lbs.

**Future Efforts/Plans:**

- Personnel that were assigned to Mustang Island will be redirected to South Matagorda Island for Task Force rotations.
- Plans in progress: Shoreline Cleanup Methods and Endpoints Plan, Decision Memorandums (No Observable Oil Shoreline Segment and Tribal Engagement), Quality Assurance Project Plan, Spill Prevention and Control Plan and several Geographically Specific Methodologies for Achieving the End Point Determination Plan.

**Impact Measurements:**

- Wildlife Impacts: The Wildlife Group continues to conduct wildlife recovery efforts in the AOR. To date, 110 individual animals have been collected; 57 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 will be entering a 2-week monitoring period on 6APR14.
  - 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:**

- Low visibilities and ceilings impacted operations Sunday morning. Weather conditions improved during the afternoon.
- Low ceilings and reduced visibilities may briefly impact operations early Monday, but rapidly improving conditions are expected by mid to late morning... no weather related impacts expected for most of the day. Strong coastal winds may impact the area on Tuesday.

**External Affairs:**

- Interaction with media consisted of fielding calls from local media reporters on current cleanup operations and preparing for the media day 7APR14. Currently 7 media outlets will be in attendance (11 people total).
- Teleconference with Admiral Cook 1500
- VIP Visits:
  - Women's Board of Directors of Port O' Connor Community Center: Marie Hawes
  - Captain Brian Penoyer 9APR14 (tentative)

**Personnel / Agencies Involved: 429 total (ICP: 140 Field: 289)**

- U.S. Coast Sector Corpus Christi (34 persons)
- U.S. Coast Guard Strike Team (10 Persons)
- U.S. Coast Guard IMAT (4 Person)
- Other U.S. Coast Guard Units (2)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife
- 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) 2 Photos



**Responders conducting cleanup/removal on Matagorda Island**



**Crews begin preparation for use of light mechanical equipment on Matagorda Island**

