

Phases of Oil Spill Response – Pipeline P00547 Incident



The US Coast Guard (USCG) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) respond 24/7 to reports of oil spills and tar balls. Once an official incident begins, there are three primary phases of response from incident outset to the return to the normal monitoring and response posture.

Standard USCG and OSPR Emergency Response

The USCG and OSPR serve as trustee agencies responsible for responding to reports of oil on water or the shoreline 24/7 and will deploy field response teams to investigate reports made to the National Response Center or California Office of Emergency Services. If a cleanup response is necessary, a Unified Command (USCG, OSPR, Responsible Party (RP), and sometimes a Local Government On-Scene Coordinator) will enter the response phase. If the product is determined to match a previous incident, the Responsible Party will be billed for cleanup.

Pipeline P00547 Incident

Response Phase 1

Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) and cleanup operations in place. Active assessment, monitoring, and crews working in different segments to remove oil or tar balls; implementing shoreline treatment recommendations (STRs) by habitat type.

Response Phase 2

Maintenance, Monitoring, and Completion Segments of shoreline that have met cleanup endpoints (defined in [Guidelines for Terrestrial, Marine Waters, and Shoreline Habitats Cleanup Endpoints document](#)) are signed off. If local reports indicate a segment is re-oiled, SCAT teams will reassess, implement STRs as appropriate (back to Phase 1).

Response Phase 3

Post-Sign Off Transition Period. When the Operational Divisions in Orange County and San Diego are signed off, the RP's contracted oil spill response organization (OSRO) will continue to respond to any additional reports of tar balls or oiling that may occur. USCG and OSPR will provide validation of reports and oversight to ensure cleanup during this transition period. The duration of the transition period will depend upon the frequency of tar ball and oiling incidents. The Unified Command will receive briefings on each incident as well as monthly updates.