Success Story: Refugio Oil Spill Response

Refugio Oil Spill

Refugio State Beach
Channel Coast District

May 19th, 2015

Ground Zero

Untrained "Rescuers" Arrive

Refugio and El Capitan SB Closed

Campground to Industrial Operation Overnight!

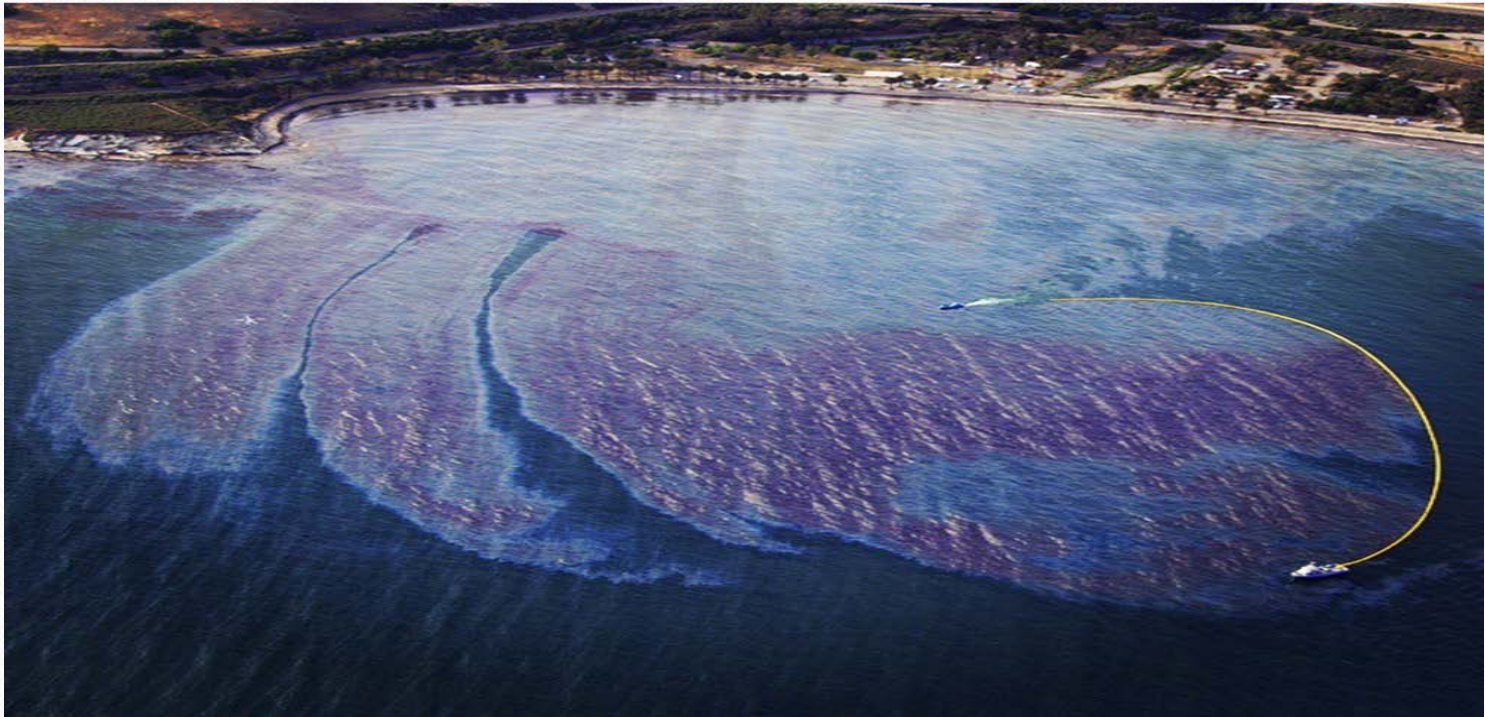# Professional Clean Up Crews Arrive

Unified Command

Marine Operations

Field Coordination

Challenges

- Significant resource damage from oil and clean up activities.

- Media Relations- 40 TV trucks at Refugio SB and daily press conferences at Unified Command.

- Armed Private Security Company

- Clean Up crews exceeding 1300 individuals

- Waste Removal/food/fuel/transportation/logistics

- Criminal Activity including drug dealing, prostitution and violence.

- Perimeter Security-Ongoing

- Staffing- 24/7-Thank you supporting Districts and SLO Coast for providing leadership with James Grennan who stepped into Incident Command when needed.

- Administration-Reimbursement and Claims

More Challenges

- As a land owner, geographic and resource experts, Unified Command looked for our lead on many important decisions.

- Politician and VIP Tours

- Media Management

- Crime Scene/Litigation – Data collection, confidentiality and access.

- Resource Protection- Remote Access, Oil Removal techniques, Air Operations, Natural/Cultural monitoring and built facility protection.

- Future pipeline activities, rights and impacts.

- Planning for more events.

Debrief

- Channel Coast District was organized, trained and prepared to respond to this incident with limited staffing.

- Eric, Nat, Tyson, Jean, Oscar, Brent, Gayla, Laura R. and all their staff…..Thank you!

- Governor's State of Emergency eliminated normal process restrictions.

- Work load increase/costs with are significant.

- Oil Spills are multi-year commitments requiring legal, project management and staff support.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the content of this presentation please contact Rich Rozzelle at rich.rozzelle@parks.ca.gov.

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