



To: Elected Officials
Department Heads
City Commissioners

From: Phil Ginsburg, Chief of Staff, Mayor Gavin Newsom
Laura Phillips, Director, Department of Emergency Management

Date: November 13, 2007

Subject: City's Response and Activities to Cosco Busan Oil Spill of 11/7/07 as of 11/12/07

This summary is intended to update City representatives on last Wednesday's oil spill and subsequent clean-up and recovery efforts.

Event:

An oil spill occurred during the morning of November 7, 2007 when the container ship Cosco Busan, collided with a support of the San Francisco Bay Bridge. Initial reports from the Coast Guard indicated the leakage of approximately 140 gallons bunker fuel. Later that evening, during a 9 pm OES region conference call the Coast Guard revised the leakage to be more in the range of 58,000 gallons. As a result of the spill, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a State emergency on Friday, November 9th. The Cosco Busan has since been off loaded of containers and is at Anchorage 9 near Hunter's Point. There is an ongoing investigation of the cause of the collision being conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Stand up of Unified Command:

Following a series of conference calls that the Mayor convened on Wednesday, November 7, City response departments and affected City agencies mobilized to respond at 7:00 am on Thursday, November 8th. The Mayor directed the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to provide a representative to the Unified Incident Command that was initially located at Fort Mason Center and is now located on Treasure Island. The Unified Command is comprised of the United States Coast Guard, which serves as the lead agency, the California State Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and a contractor hired by the ship owners to respond and clean up the spill on land and water. Local agencies serve as liaisons only, not as part of the command structure. The Incident Command Post (ICP) will continue to operate from Treasure Island. San Francisco, Marin, Contra Costa, Sonoma, Solano, San Mateo and Alameda Operational Areas, as well as the Cities of Berkeley and Albany, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area have Agency Representatives assigned to the incident. State OES Fire and Law Branches are represented at the ICP. Coastal Region has two staff to assist and support Operational Area coordination related to this incident.

Regional Situation

To date 12,271 gallons of oil has been recovered from the water and an estimated 4,060 gallons of oil has evaporated. Seven miles of containment boom has been deployed to confine and collect oil in the water. According to the Oil and Wildlife Care Network, 465 live birds and 196 dead birds have been received in their facilities. The oil has spread to the north coastline of Stinson Beach and to the south coastline of Ocean Beach. Inside the bay, it has spread south to Hunter's Point and north to Richmond.

San Francisco Situation

After the initial spill, Port offices were evacuated due to noxious vapors. Oil spill vapors become less prevalent over time as oil dissipates, sinks, evaporates or washes up on beaches. The spill spread south to Hunter's Point inside the Bay, around our coastline and south to Ocean Beach and Fort Funston outside the Golden Gate. San Francisco has been spared the largest concentrations of heavy oil which traveled north towards the Richmond Bridge inside the Bay and north along the Marin Coast outside the Golden Gate. San Francisco has experienced lighter ribbons and small pockets and balls of oil, and oil stains and residue along its coast line, piers and beaches.

Port Director Monique Moyer assessed the scene via water on Monday. She reports the following:

- Generally speaking the condition of the water is good
- There are oil stains on piers, breakwaters and sea walls. The spill happened at high tide so some of the stains are visible dependant on the tide.
- There is a very obvious stain on the base of the Bay Bridge support where the collision occurred. Sausage booms remain surrounding the base.
- Oil has not entered into the marina where significant historic vessels are docked. The Park Service put booms out early on.
- Aquatic Park is boomed except for an opening on the north side. (the tide was too low to reach that area at the time of the installation.) The contractor said it will be boomed no later than Tuesday. The current booms are saturated with oil which indicates they are doing the job.
- At Pier 39 the water is very clean. The booms inside the breakwater are also clean indicating no presence of oil
- The cruise ship terminal water looks clear.
- Booms remain at Pier One, but the oil slicks are no longer present.
- On Monday, a number of oiled birds were observed on breakwaters and at the end of piers. GPS coordinates were reported by the NRC representative aboard to the appropriate number for pick up.
- Piers 17 through 23 were all clean.
- 20 local fishing boats were deployed on both Sunday and Monday to assist the regional recovery and were sent up the Tiburon Straits to either skim or vacuum the water.
- No recreational vessels were sighted during this assessment. The message to boat owners encouraging them to refrain from using the bay seems to be working.
- Crab Season was scheduled to start on November 15th. In anticipation, crab fishermen usually lay their traps two days ahead. No traps have been laid and the Governor and the State Department of Health are expected to officially delay the season for health reasons until it is deemed "safe".
- The Cosco Busan owners are in negotiation for a "wet dock" in San Francisco. (The site for repair is above the water line so the ship can be repaired while in the water)

As of Tuesday morning November 13, 2007 9:00 AM at the following beaches and piers are closed: Crissy Field, Clipper Cove Marina at TI, Aquatic Park, SF Municipal Pier, Ft Point, Baker Beach, and China Beach.

Ocean Beach has an advisory posted. However, Ocean Beach is expected to experience tides on Tuesday which may deposit additional oil and tar balls on shore, resulting in the need for additional clean up. The Mayor formally requested that Unified Command and GGNRA to close Ocean Beach.

To remedy the impact of the spill upon San Francisco assets, the following resources were deployed in our jurisdiction as of 1:00 pm on Monday, November 12, 2007:

- Recovery vessels – 7 skimmers
- Four vessels at piers
- 49 contractors cleaning at Baker Beach (closed)
- 60 contractors cleaning at China Beach (closed)
- 52 contractors cleaning at Fort Funston Beach with assessment teams
- 50 contractors cleaning at Piers 1 through 29
- 100 volunteers with 20 City workers cleaning at Ocean Beach
- 169 Wildlife teams (98 are volunteers)
- 23 SCAT teams (specialized teams to assess beaches and make recommendations for priorities for cleaning)
- 200 more feet of boom placed at Aquatic Park after review by Port Director Monique Moyer.

As conditions change, and subject to policy decisions by the Unified Command, GGNRA and San Francisco officials, beaches may open or close. DSW volunteer and city worker teams will be directed to aid ongoing clean-up efforts in affected areas as needed.

The Volunteer Coordination Effort

After initial reluctance to include volunteers as part of the clean-up effort, Unified Command agreed to hold information workshops in three counties on Saturday morning regarding volunteer opportunities and required training. San Francisco DEM coordinated this class, with other city agencies, at the Bill Graham Auditorium on Saturday morning. Over 300 people attended this two-hour workshop and provided us with a volunteer database.

At the Mayor's direction, City agencies and non-profits met on 11/10 and 11/11 to continue developing a volunteer management plan. On Sunday, with DPW in the lead, a coordinated volunteer clean up effort occurred from 9:30 to 12:30 at Heron Point Park in the Southeast section of the City. This event and subsequent ones were advertised via media advisories, email blasts to the DEM volunteer database, postings on the City Call Center 311 system, postings on the San Francisco Volunteer Center and email blasts from SF Connect. On Sunday, approximately 120 people responded and picked up over 7,000 pounds of garbage and green waste.

On Sunday afternoon, Unified Command agreed to allow us to place volunteers who complete a four hour hazmat training class on Ocean Beach to clean-up oil under the supervision of qualified city personnel. The first training occurred on Monday, November 12th at the United Irish Cultural Center. Teams were subsequently deployed to Ocean Beach in the afternoon. The City ended up training and credentialing 188 volunteers as Disaster Services Workers certified to perform cleanup. 72 City employees also participated in the training. As of this writing, only volunteers who have participated in the four hour training and received a photo ID as a Disaster Service Worker (DSW) will be allowed to access personal protective equipment from City workers and be placed on cleanup teams. Cleanups at Ocean Beach will continue on Tuesday, November 13th. More hazmat trainings are being scheduled in the coming weeks.

Cost Recovery

On Friday November 9, 2007, the Controller's Office advised affected departments' financial officers and disaster coordinators to begin tracking all personnel and supply/materials costs related to the oil spill, including lost revenue, overtime and other expenditures. The Controller's Office will be following-up on cost recovery procedures in the coming days.

Recognition

While the clean-up work is far from complete, a number of City representatives -- too numerous to mention individually -- have worked closely together since the spill to help insure that San Francisco has provided the best response possible in the face of this declared disaster.

After some initial challenges, our communication and coordination with the Unified Command has improved significantly under the leadership of Coast Guard Rear Admiral Craig Bone. Unified Command is now working more collaboratively with City representatives, enhancing our overall clean-up efforts.

Since the inception of the Unified Command, several City Agencies have contributed to the overall response including the Mayor's Office, the Board of Supervisors, DEM, Port, SFFD, SFPD, DPH, DPW, PUC, Rec and Park, DHR, 311, the City Administrator's Office, the General Services Agency, the Controller's Office, the City Attorney's Office, Treasure Island, Animal Care and Control, and DTIS, among others.

Special thanks to our local, state and federal elected officials, the Coast Guard, the EPA, the GGNRA, the San Francisco Volunteer Center, the Irish Cultural Center, SF Connect, our sister cities and counties affected by the oil spill, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Unified Command personnel for their dedicated support and involvement.

The Mayor wishes especially to thank Supervisor Bevan Dufty who was acting Mayor for a period of time the Mayor was out of town. He did an excellent job.

Next Steps

The Mayor has directed that Department of Emergency Management partially activate the Emergency Operation Center today to continue to coordinate support for the Unified Command at Treasure Island and to provide continuing City leadership and support for volunteer clean-up efforts, beach closures and health and safety assessments of City piers, coastline and beaches.

The Mayor will be introducing a proclamation of local emergency at today's Board of Supervisors meeting. This proclamation will allow us to be eligible for state and federal disaster relief funds and would also allow for the use of the Mayor's emergency powers under the Administrative Code to the extent necessary.

For More Information

For more information about the spill please visit the Coast Guard website at www.uscg-sanfrancisco.com. Additional updates will be provided as warranted by the Department of Emergency Management.