

City of Huntington Beach

Oil Spill 2021

October 28, 2021



Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **9:00 a.m.**

- City personnel were informed via announcement made on VHF Channel 16 by US Coast Guard of a possible oil spill in the area of Huntington Beach, however, no specific details or intelligence was made available

- **10:30 a.m.**

- The Coast Guard advised that the spill could be larger than originally thought, and that air assets were being deployed to survey the scope and severity of the oil spill
- Very little information was provided though regarding the location and scope of the situation

- **11:00 a.m.**

- The Coast Guard advised that the spill was being classified as a major spill, and that an Incident Management Team (IMT) was being activated

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **12:00 p.m.**

- The City received information that the oil impact could reach Huntington Beach
- City personnel began collaborating, and a determination was made that if the situation warranted, we would begin local response operations beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- Response operations were driven by our marine oil spill protocols, which calls for the City to implement boom mitigations at the:
 - Talbert Inlet Channel
 - Bolsa Chica Wetlands entrance near Warner Fire Station
 - Talbert Marsh entrance near Brookhurst / PCH

- **2:00 p.m.**

- The Coast Guard advised the City that the new spread model indicated that the oil spill would not reach our shores until October 4
- This information was provided with very little context, and few details were provided regarding the location and scope of the oil spill situation

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **2:30 p.m.**

- The City command post at Jr. Lifeguard Headquarters received our first report that oil was impacting boats on the outer edge of the Air Show flight box, and rescue vessels assigned to the Air Show conducted patrol checks to assess the size and scope of oil spill near our shore
- City Fire Department crews, our haz mat teams, and our oil spill response trailer were dispatched to the Talbert Inlet Channel (TIC) to begin mitigation efforts

- **2:45 p.m.**

- The City was informed by Newport Beach Rescue Vessel that private contractors were conducting oil spill clean-up operations on south end of Air Show flight box, and that a large amount of oil was impacting the Air Show flight box
- Subsequently, the Coast Guard made an announcement on VHF Channel 16 that boaters could expect the closure of Huntington Harbor
- The Huntington Harbor announcement was only made one time, and was then canceled by the Coast Guard
- The Coast Guard then advised the City again that their new oil spread model showed that the spill would not reach our shores until October 4

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **4:00 p.m.**

- The City began efforts to install boom protective measures at ecologically sensitive areas
 - Talbert Inlet Channel – soft booms were installed to protect the Bolsa Chica Wetlands
 - Warner Bridge off PCH – hard booms were installed to protect the Bolsa Chica Wetlands
 - Warner Fire Station – hard booms were installed to protect the Bolsa Chica Wetlands
 - Talbert Marsh – soft booms were installed to protect the Talbert Marsh

- **4:45 p.m.**

- The City made the decision to close the water in the area from the Huntington Beach Pier south to Beach Boulevard
- CA State Parks also conducted a water closure of Huntington State Beach from Beach Boulevard to Brookhurst Street

Timeline Of Events – Saturday, 10/2

- **5:30 p.m.**

- State Parks reported that oil was being seen 300 yards outside of surfline near Magnolia and Brookhurst
- The City placed a request into Anaheim and OCFA for additional soft booms

- **6:10 p.m.**

- The City conducted aerial surveillance in our Police helicopter and it was determined that oil spill stretched south to the Balboa Pier, with the northern boundary in Huntington Beach at Newland Street
- At the time, the oil spill appeared to be around 2.8 nautical miles off the coast, and stretched 5.8 nautical miles in length

- **7:00 p.m.**

- The City observed that oil had reached the shoreline in Huntington State Beach at Newland, and small oil splotch segments were being observed as far north as the HB Pier

















