

# Latest on California oil spill: Up to 105,000 gallons leaked

May 20 2015, byThe Associated Press

---



Crews from Patriot Environmental Services collect oil-covered seaweed and sand from the shoreline at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif., Wednesday, May 20, 2015. A broken onshore pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the ocean for several hours Tuesday before it was shut off, creating a slick some 4 miles long about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara. (AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant)

Cleanup crews fanned out Wednesday along a stretch of scenic

California coastline stained by thousands of gallons of crude oil that spilled from broken pipe and flowed into the Pacific Ocean.

2:45 p.m. (PDT)

The company that owns a pipeline that spewed [oil](#) into California coastal waters says that under the worst-case scenario, up to 105,000 gallons of crude leaked in the [spill](#).

How much of that ended up in the ocean remains unclear.

The Plains All American Pipeline company says in a statement the current estimate remains 21,000 gallons, but it says that figure is under investigation.

The spill happened Tuesday about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara.

The broken onshore pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the Pacific Ocean for several hours before it was shut off. The spill created two slicks that span about 9 miles.

---

1 p.m. (PDT)

An oil industry group says it will review a California oil spill once cleanup is complete to learn from it and try to prevent future spills.

"As an industry, we are always concerned when accidents like this happen," the Western States Petroleum Association said in a statement Wednesday.

The spill happened Tuesday about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara. A

broken onshore pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the Pacific Ocean for several hours before it was shut off.



Crews from Patriot Environmental Services collect oil-covered seaweed and sand from the shoreline at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif., Wednesday, May 20, 2015. A broken onshore pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the ocean for several hours Tuesday before it was shut off, creating a slick some 4 miles long about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara. (AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant)

The spill created two slicks in coastal waters that span 9 miles.

The pipeline is owned by Plains All American. It carries [crude oil](#) produced by companies operating on the Central Coast and delivers it through a maze of pipes to refineries around the state.

---

11:30 a.m. (PDT)

The company that owns the pipeline that broke and spewed oil into the Pacific Ocean says it's still unknown exactly how much oil was lost, but the pipeline was operating at maximum capacity.

Plains All American Pipeline LP official Darren Palmer says the pipeline was running at a rate of 2,000 barrels an hour—equivalent to 84,000 gallons.

Initial estimates put the spill about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara at approximately 21,000 gallons. But U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Jennifer Williams has said that figure was likely to change after a flyover provides a better sense of its scope.

She said Wednesday the oil slicks now stretch about 9 miles.

The 24-inch pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the ocean for several hours Tuesday before it was shut off.





Crews from Patriot Environmental Services collect oil-covered seaweed and sand from the shoreline at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif., Wednesday, May 20, 2015. A broken onshore pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the ocean for several hours Tuesday before it was shut off, creating a slick some 4 miles long about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara. (AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant)

On Wednesday, crews fanned out along Refugio State Beach to work on cleanup.

---

11 a.m. (PDT)

Oil floating off the California coast after a spill from a broken pipe now stretches about 9 miles.

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Jennifer Williams provided the updated figure during a news conference Wednesday in Goleta, California.



Clean up crews remove oil-laden sand on the beach at Refugio State Beach, site of an oil spill, north of Goleta, Calif., Wednesday, May 20, 2015. A broken onshore pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the ocean for several hours Tuesday before it was shut off, creating a slick some 4 miles long about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara. (AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant)

She says vessels have deployed three sets of floating booms to try to

keep the slicks from spreading, while other boats are skimming oil from the sea surface.

A Coast Guard captain and an Environmental Protection Agency official are the federal coordinators of the response to the spill about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara. That's because it originated on land and then entered the ocean.



Clean up crews walk down the beach at Refugio State Beach, site of an oil spill, north of Goleta, Calif., Wednesday, May 20, 2015. A broken onshore pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the ocean for several hours Tuesday before it was shut off, creating a slick some 4 miles long about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara. (AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant)

Williams says state and local officials are also part of the unified command.



The broken onshore pipeline spewed thousands of gallons of oil down a storm drain and into the Pacific Ocean for several hours Tuesday before it was shut off.



This photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department shows an oil slick from a broken pipeline off the central California coast near Santa Barbara on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Capt. Dave Zaniboni of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department says the pipeline on the land near Refugio State Beach broke Tuesday and spilled oil into a culvert that ran under the U.S. 101 freeway and into the ocean. (Mike Eliason/Santa Barbara County Fire Department via AP)





Eric Simon, left, and Kristen Karnes, air monitors with the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, take readings at the site of an oil spill at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif., Wednesday, May 20, 2015. A broken onshore pipeline spewed oil down a storm drain and into the ocean for several hours Tuesday before it was shut off, creating a slick some 4 miles long about 20 miles west of Santa Barbara. (AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant)

© 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Latest on California oil spill: Up to 105,000 gallons leaked (2015, May 20) retrieved 11 September 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-05-latest-california-oil-gallons-leaked.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.