

CERT Volunteer Talking Points

Chevron Pipeline Oil Spill, Salt Lake City, Utah

June 13, 2010

When was SLC police/fire notified?

At approximately 6:51 a.m. Saturday, June 12, 2010, SLC Police/Fire was dispatched on a complaint of petroleum odors on the grounds of the Veteran's Administration (V.A.) facility at 500 Foothill Drive. This led to the discovery of significant crude oil in Red Butte Creek, which runs through the V.A. property.

When did the oil spill begin?

At approximately 8:00 a.m. Saturday, June 12, 2010, Chevron was alerted by the SLC Fire Department. Chevron reviewed its logs and noticed a peculiarity at approximately 10 p.m. Friday, June 11, 2010. Whether the aberration signaled the start of the leak is undetermined at this point.

How many gallons have leaked into the creek?

Based on a 10 p.m. June 11, 2010, starting time, the pipe's 10-inch diameter and length to containment at Liberty Park, Chevron has estimated that more than 500 barrels of crude oil leaked into Red Butte Creek. While the leak originally flowed at 50-60 gallons per minute, it was down to 2-3 gallons at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 12, 2010. Chevron reported Saturday afternoon that it had shut off the pipeline 7-10 miles east of the estimated fracture point.

What was in the pipeline?

Crude oil.

What actions were taken on scene once the leak was found by SLC Fire?

Big D Construction was on scene at a nearby construction project and was asked to assist. Construction workers used a large backhoe to dig several temporary containment ponds. A Chevron vacuum truck is on site and pumping from these ponds, transporting the crude to the local Chevron refinery, 2351 N. 1100 W., Salt Lake City.

What notifications have been made to the public?

A press conference with Mayor Ralph Becker and other parties was held at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 12, 2010. Video has been posted at www.slctv.com.

In addition to public information releases throughout the day from the Salt Lake City Joint Information Center – (801) 535-7171 – a Wide Area Notification alert was issued at 11:10 a.m. Saturday, June 12,

2010, to residents in a two block-radius around Red Butte Creek from the Gardens down to Liberty Park, as well as a one-block radius around Liberty Park. Liberty Park was officially closed to pedestrians and motorists at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 12, 2010.

What health concerns are there for people?

Due to a storm front, wind dissipated fumes during the morning and active hours of the leak. However, residual fumes may be collecting. Fire hazmat crews have not seen high toxicity levels in the air, however, they are monitoring with gas leak meters for toxicity levels. Residents should be concerned about closed environments with no airflow, especially in regard to elderly people or shut-ins. Residents should only call 911 if they are exhibiting symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, nausea, dizziness, and severe headaches.

Residents near the creek or who are smelling petroleum odors in their yards should do everything they can to get good ventilation in their homes. Air monitoring has confirmed that there are no acute or chronic toxicity concerns; however, odors may cause headaches and a general ill feeling. In such cases, Chevron advises individuals to leave the area and if necessary obtain alternate accommodations. Such persons are welcome to file a claim for reimbursement with Chevron by calling (866) 752-6340.

Crude oil is an irritant to both people and animals. Avoid contact. However, if contact occurs, wash with soap and water. Residents who believe they are suffering from symptoms of exposure should contact a healthcare professional.

What health concerns for pets?

Hogle Zoo has transported over 100 waterfowl from Liberty Park to the zoo's animal hospital for treatment. The zoo is not accepting household pets at this time. While common dishwashing soap can be used to clean pets, the zoo advises pet owners to call their veterinarian for treatment and cleaning recommendations.

Wildlife: Utah Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is the lead agency for wildlife rescue. Citizens are not to handle any wildlife. They should call DWR dispatch at 801-887-3800 to report wildlife that appear to be exposed to oil.

Salt Lake County Animal Services officers are available to support DWR in pick-up and transport of wildlife if requested. DWR and Salt Lake County Animal Services are to transport oiled wildlife to Hogle Zoo for decontamination and evaluation.

Domestic Animals or animals not covered by DWR response: Residents are instructed to contact their local veterinarian or one of the following 24/7 clinics if personal pets have been exposed to oil. Salt Lake County Animal Services (801-743-7045) is coordinating with the veterinary community on decontamination and any treatment if needed.

Pet Emergency Room

6360 S Highland Dr
Murray, UT 84121
(801) 278-3367

Advanced Veterinary Care

1021 East 3300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84106
(801) 942-3951

Southeast Valley Veterinary

10572 S 700 E
Sandy, UT 84070
(801) 571-8050

References:

Treatment Info: <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp?cfile=htm/bc/212600.htm>

Effects of Oil on Wildlife: <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whc/owcnpdfs/eow-facts.pdf>

Have there been any evacuations?

Building 590, an office building at the V.A., was evacuated Saturday morning, June 12, 2010. No patient services occur in this building.

Are there any explosive or fire concerns?

Not at this time. Hazmat crews began patrolling affected areas with gas meters Saturday morning, June 12, 2010. Due to the storm front blowing through Saturday morning, wind dissipated much of the fumes during the early hours of the leak.

What first-responder agencies are involved?

SLC Police, SLC Fire, Unified Fire, Metro Fire, West Valley City Fire, South Salt Lake Fire and Midvale Fire are all involved in response and containment.

Has drinking water been compromised?

No. Drinking water is safe.