



FAQ UPDATE #4 – Chevron Pipeline Oil Spill, Salt Lake City, Utah – June 16, 2010
For questions and comments call (801) 535-7171 or email oil@slcgov.com

When was SLC police/fire notified?

At approximately 6:53 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 and what was in the pipeline?

At 7:44 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. The pipeline contained crude oil

How many gallons of oil have leaked into the creek?

The exact number of gallons of crude oil leaked into the creek is estimated at approximately 800 barrels (33, 600 gallons). Chevron reports that as of Wednesday, June 16, 500 barrels (21,000 gallons) of oil have been recovered.

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

Salt Lake City Fire Departments called in its own Hazmat team as the full scope of the spill was determined. Additional resources were called in to respond during the early mitigation phase. 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 was brought on site to pump oil from the ponds and transport the crude to the local Chevron refinery at 2351 N. 1100 W.

What notifications have been made to the public?

The Mayor's Office offered early morning warnings to residents via Facebook and Twitter to allow clean-up crews to deal with the disaster at Red Butte Canyon and Liberty Park. In addition to public information releases from the Salt Lake City Joint Information Center, 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 but has since reopened without use of Liberty Lake which will remain closed until clean-up is complete. An initial media advisory warning residents of the dangerous situation was sent at 10:54 am with additional updates sent throughout the day. 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.

On Sunday, June 13, an advisory was sent with updated information about the spill. Letters from Mayor Becker were distributed to immediate affected residents inviting them to attend a Town Hall meeting on June 14. Media publicized forthcoming Town Hall meeting. On Monday, June 14, a press conference was held at Liberty Park at 11:00 am to update the public on Chevron's findings. The Town Hall meeting was held at 7:00 pm at Clayton Middle School for concerned residents. Mayor Becker hosted the meeting which included breakout sessions focused on: Information from Spill Site; Containment/Drinking Water/Water Quality Monitoring; Parks and Programming; Public Health; Animal Health; and Chevron Clean-Up and Claims. Regular updates continue at www.slcgov.com.

What is the current clean-up plan?

According to Chevron, the current clean-up plan includes the following steps: 1) Aggressively recover oil throughout the affected areas; 2) Divide the affected areas into 18 sections and survey each for contamination and prioritization for clean-up efforts; 3) Develop remediation plans, based on survey results, with regulatory authorities and immediately implement the plan; and 4) Continue to assess and clean up Red Butte Creek bed and shore.

Has excavation of the pipeline occurred and what was found?

On Sunday, June 13, Chevron excavated the part of the pipeline where the leak occurred. According to Chevron, preliminary observations indicate the cause of the leak to be an electrical arc that created a hole the size of a quarter in the top of the pipe. Once the damaged section of the pipe is removed, it will be sent to a third party for analysis.

Are Chevron's activities being reviewed?

Chevron is coordinating with the US Department of Transportation (DOT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Utah's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Mayor's Office, Salt Lake City Fire Department and Public Utilities, and other Intergovernmental agencies on the clean-up. Additionally, the Mayor's Office has contracted with nationally renowned sediment and aquatic remediation experts Dalton, Olmsted & Fuglevand for oversight of the oil spill cleanup process.

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 may file a claim for reimbursement with Chevron by calling **(866) 752-6340** or sending an email to **slcspill@chevron.com**.

Crude oil is an irritant and contains elements that may be toxic to humans. 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 provider. (Please see accompanying sheet on Crude Oil Health Hazards).

Has drinking water been compromised? No. Drinking water is safe.

What are the health concerns for pets?

While common dishwashing soap can be used to clean pets, the zoo advises pet owners to call their veterinarian for treatment and cleaning recommendations. The County is the lead agency for managing the oiled animal issue for the City with support from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Tracy Aviary staff will manage the collection and containment of oiled animals that come directly into the Aviary. Aviary staff will capture and contain the animals and notify County Animal Services to come and collect the animals.

Animal Services will manage the oiled animal issue on Liberty Park Lake, the surrounding park area and all other areas of the City where contaminated animals are discovered—including the Jordan River corridor. The County will monitor and hold animals that come from Liberty Lake for future placement. Hogle Zoo assisted in initial treatment of oiled animals. Because treatment has now transferred to the County, the Zoo is no longer accepting additional animals.

Have there been any evacuations?

Office building 590 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?

As petroleum products are flammable, there is a risk associated with fireworks or open flame near affected areas. Areas around the Jordan River, Liberty Lake, and Red Butte Creek are closed to public use to limit access and exposure.

What first-responder agencies were involved?

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

Will events at Red Butte Gardens and Liberty Park be affected?

Red Butte Gardens does not anticipate any impact to visitor activities including concerts, camps and classes. Swim team and Youth City activities were temporarily relocated from Liberty Park. All other services and activities are open, with the exception of those that utilize Liberty Lake, which will remain closed until clean-up has been completed. At both locations, visitors are asked to consider using carpooling or alternative transportation as parking may be limited.