

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Morena - HWY 8 Incident - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IX

**Subject:** POLREP #4  
Continuation of Removal  
Morena - HWY 8 Incident  
  
San Diego, CA  
Latitude: 32.7657318 Longitude: -117.1999960

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**From:** Robert Wise, OSC

**Date:** 5/23/2016

**Reporting Period:** 05/20-23/2016

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

|                            |           |                                |                |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Site Number:</b>        | Z9EE      | <b>Contract Number:</b>        |                |
| <b>D.O. Number:</b>        |           | <b>Action Memo Date:</b>       |                |
| <b>Response Authority:</b> | OPA       | <b>Response Type:</b>          | Emergency      |
| <b>Response Lead:</b>      | PRP       | <b>Incident Category:</b>      | Removal Action |
| <b>NPL Status:</b>         | Non NPL   | <b>Operable Unit:</b>          |                |
| <b>Mobilization Date:</b>  | 5/15/2016 | <b>Start Date:</b>             | 5/14/2016      |
| <b>Demob Date:</b>         |           | <b>Completion Date:</b>        |                |
| <b>CERCLIS ID:</b>         |           | <b>RCRIS ID:</b>               |                |
| <b>ERNS No.:</b>           |           | <b>State Notification:</b>     |                |
| <b>FPN#:</b>               | E16901    | <b>Reimbursable Account #:</b> |                |

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Tank Truck Roll-Over/Diesel Spill

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

On May 13, 2016, a tanker truck belonging to the SOCO Group flipped over while transitioning from I-8 west onto Moreno Blvd., releasing 3715 gallons of diesel fuel. The diesel migrated through weep hole drains onto the San Diego River Floodplain and into the river itself. The contamination is also on Friars Road and the Morena Blvd. overpass. The responsible party (RP) initiated a response, hiring NRC Environmental Services (NRC) to conduct response operations, which are on-going. A Unified Command has been set up to include the RP, San Diego County Environmental Health Hazmat (SDCoEH), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CADFW) Office of Oil Spill, Prevention and Response (OSPR) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). See Section 3.2 for other cooperating agencies.

The spill impacted San Diego River and flood plain, which are "Waters of the US". It drains to the Pacific Ocean approximately two miles downstream to the ocean.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The spill impacted the off-ramp from westbound I-8 to Morena Blvd. north overpass; Friars Road beneath the Morena Blvd. overpass, the San Diego River channel and the San Diego River flood basin.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

See POLREP No. 1. Currently, soil excavations are on-going in areas next to the river shoreline. The river has some limited sheening along the excavation areas and some limited pockets of vegetation upstream of the bridge. There have not been any wildlife impacts detected.

### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See POLREP No. 1. On May 23, 2016, OSC Wise conducted monitoring for VOCs on the rip-rap field under the northern abutment of the Morena Blvd. bridge using a TVA-1000 FID/PID combination unit. The ambient concentrations for total VOCs (PID/FID combined) were less than 1.5 ppm. Concentrations between the rip-rap was also less than 1.5 ppm. OSC Wise also conducted monitoring on the northern side of the river in areas B,C,D and E and found VOC concentration to be less than 10 ppm.

Water results showing a small amount of TPH in the river samples. No VOCs detected. TPH concentrations less than 200 ug/l in spill area. Upstream concentrations of TPH at approximately 140 ug/l.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

On May 13, 2016, a tanker truck containing 3700 gallons of diesel crashed releasing diesel in the San Diego River and Flood Plain. The Responsible Party, the SOCO Group has initiated a response action to remove the diesel from all impacted areas under a Unified Command. The USEPA Spill Phone duty officer (DO) was notified of the spill by the National Response Center. The DO negotiated with the USCG to provide an on-site Federal presence until an USEPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) could be deployed. The DO deployed FOSC R. Wise on the morning of May 14, 2016 to respond to the spill. The SOCO Group has set up a hotline for the spill. The number is: 760-795-5383.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

May 20, 2016

Agency Personnel: CADFW, SDCoEH, No EPA Presence

Area B backfilled and regarded. Started excavation in Area D and work back towards C. Area C completed. Awaiting soil and groundwater data to determine if clean. Washing of the river banks using pumps and river water continued. Sorbent boom on river used to collect any sheen generated from washing. Excavation in area "G" completed and awaiting analytical data.

May 21-22, 2016: No Work On-Site

May 23, 2016:

Agencies Present: EPA, CADFW, City of San Diego, CHP

EPA Personnel: OSC R. Wise

IC briefings will go to one a day at 0730 hours. NRC continuing to excavated the banks of the river on both sides of the river. Flushing operations continue on the river. Awaiting data to backfill areas C and G.

#### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

On May 17, 2016, OSC Wise issued a NOFI to the SOCO Group.

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

| <i><b>Waste Stream</b></i> | <i><b>Medium</b></i> | <i><b>Quantity</b></i> | <i><b>Manifest #</b></i> | <i><b>Treatment</b></i> | <i><b>Disposal</b></i>      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| diesel contaminated soil   | soil                 | 820 cubic yards        |                          |                         | Yuma Landfill (daily loads) |
| diesel contaminated water  | water                | 20,000 gallons         |                          |                         | temporary storage on-site   |
| sorbent debris             | solids               | 20 cubic yards         |                          |                         | temporary storage on-site   |
| oiled vegetation           | solids               | 40 cubic yards         |                          |                         | temporary storage on-site   |

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Planned Response Activities

The operations period is 72 hours. This operational period ends on May 19, 2016 at 1900 hours. Response operations include:

- Removal of diesel contaminated soil in the San Diego River Flood Plain;
- Removal of contaminated vegetation in the San Diego River Flood Plain;
- Removal of diesel contamination in the water and on vegetation of the San Diego River;
- Confirmation sampling in the River and Flood Plain to determine completion of the removal;
- Assessment of impacts to groundwater; and
- Restoration of all impacted areas.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

- Contractors for the RP will begin sanding the road on Morena Blvd. overpass to remove any residual diesel.
- Removal of diesel contaminated soil in the San Diego River Flood Plain;
- Removal of contaminated vegetation in the San Diego River Flood Plain; and
- Removal of diesel contamination in the water and on vegetation of the San Diego River;

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

- Air monitoring of rip-rap areas below northern abutment of Morena Blvd, documenting total VOCs less than 1.5 ppm at both soil level and ambient. OSC is recommending reevaluating the need to excavate there.
- Opening of Friars Road.
- Backfill plan is receiving concerns from NGOs associated with river.

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

Logistics being handled by NRC.

### **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

#### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

NRC Environmental Services

#### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

The SOCO Group

#### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

The SOCO Group

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

FOSC: USEPA

SOSC: CADFW - OSPR

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

USCG, CHP, SDRC, SDRWQCB; USACE; Pima Co. Solid Waste; MTS; SDPD; SDSW; and SDPW. The SDCoEH VAP will be the lead agency for any long-term remedial issues.

## **4. Personnel On Site**

OSC is on-site on May 23, 2016.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

bgs: below ground surface

CADFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CALTRANS: California Department of Transportation

CHP: California Highway Patrol

FID: Flame Ionization Detector

FOSC: Federal On-Scene Coordinator  
FPN: Federal Pollution Number  
MTS: Metropolitan Transport System  
NOFI: Notice of Federal Interest  
NGO: Non-Government Officials  
NRC: NRC Environmental Services  
OSPR: Office of Spill Prevention and Response  
PID: Photoionization Detector  
RP: Responsible Party  
SDCoEH: San Diego Co. Environmental Health  
SDFD: San Diego Fire Department  
SDG&E: San Diego Gas and Electric  
SDPD: San Diego Police Department  
SDSW: San Diego Storm Water  
SOSC: State On-Scene Coordinator  
UC: Unified Command  
USACE: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
USCG: U.S. Coast Guard  
USEPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services  
VAP: Voluntary Assistance Program  
VOC: Volatile Organic Compounds

## **6. Additional sources of information**

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

[epaossc.org/Morena-l8\\_Spill](http://epaossc.org/Morena-l8_Spill)

### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

The next POLREP will be on May 25, 2016

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.