Summerland Beach Re-Opens

The Public Health Department has re-opened Summerland Beach to the public. The beach was closed on Friday, August 21, due to the volume of oil on the beach and sand along with the petroleum odors on the beach which posed possible adverse health effects. Oil and odors have decreased due to tide activity and natural processes, thus immediate health concerns have diminished. Warnings remain in effect as the situation with oil and odors can change rapidly. It is recommended that people and animals avoid exposure to crude oil compounds and strong odors.

The Public Health Department has been monitoring the beach on a daily basis assessing the quantity of oil, the nature of the oil and the presence of odors that may impact health. The Air Pollution Control District continues to partner with Public Health to assess the conditions of the air and potential exposure through inhalation. The primary concern is first and foremost to protect public health.

In addition to monitoring, both the Public Health Department and Air Pollution Control District have taken water, sand and air samples for testing. Testing results take a number of days and reflect findings from the date on which the samples were taken. These tests provide a perspective of the trends in the quality of the ocean, land and air.

There are seeps and old oil wells in the area, either of which may be the cause of the recent oil on Summerland Beach. Long-term analysis and evaluation will be required to make determinations as to the source of the increased oil and odors. While the source of the oil will be important for developing long-term solutions, the Public Health Department and Air Pollution Control District will remain vigilant in timely posting of warnings and closures when there is a potential risk to public health.

Any oil sightings should be reported immediately to:

- USCG National Response Center (NRC) at 800-424-8802
- California Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES) 800-852-7550

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