Volunteer Use During Refugio
Outline of Discussion

- What can happen
- Volunteer plans
- Types of volunteers
- Refugio Case Study
  - challenges
  - successes
What Can Happen

- Community members self-deploy
- No early presence from government agencies
- Lack of public information
Relevant Plans

- Area Contingency Plan/Non-Wildlife Volunteer Plan

- National Response Team: Use of Volunteers Guidelines for Oil Spills
Incident Command System
Volunteer Coordinator / Unit

- Close coordination with the Unified Command, Environmental Unit, Operations Section, and Joint Information Center

Diagram:
- Unified Command
  - Operation Section
  - Planning Section
  - Logistics Section
  - Finance Section
  - Volunteer Unit
- Liaison Officer
- Volunteer Coordinator
Volunteer Requirements

- At least 18 years old
- In good physical health
- Attend health and safety training
- Incident Command System training
Volunteer Requirements

Required Forms:

- Volunteer Service Agreement
- Photo Release
- Volunteer Skills
- Social Media Agreement
Types of Volunteers

- Pre-trained volunteers:
  - UC Davis Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- Affiliated volunteers
- Spontaneous volunteers
UC Davis Oiled Wildlife Care Network

OWCN Pre-trained volunteers

- 35 Member Organizations
- 1000+ pre-trained volunteers
- Specialized oiled wildlife response trainings
Types of Volunteers

Affiliated volunteers:
- Pre-identified groups
  - CDFW Natural Resource
  - State Parks
  - CA Conservation Corps
  - Community Emergency Response Team

Spontaneous volunteers:
- Individuals from the community
- Just-in-time trained
Refugio Oil Spill Incident Volunteers
Refugio Incident Volunteer Coordinators / Unit

Unified Command

- Operation Section
- Planning Section
- Logistics Section
- Finance Section
- Volunteer Unit

Supporting Agencies:
- Santa Barbara County/City - CERT
- California Volunteers
- UC Santa Barbara - CERT
To use or not to use volunteers – UC considerations

- Safety
- Task(s)
- Community/political pressure
- Tribal & Cultural concerns
- Lead agency/Liability
Refugio Incident
Affiliated Volunteers

- California Conservation Corp.
- Community Emergency Response Team
- CDFW/Natural Resource Volunteers
Refugio Incident
CERT

Refugio Response Support

- Fishery/beach closure signs
- ICP support/Wildlife Hotline
- Traffic control
- Clean-Up Event Registration
- Strike Team Leaders
- Flyers and brochures
Refugio Incident
CDFW Natural Resource Volunteers

Transport Oiled Wildlife

Support Logistics
Volunteer use expanded:

- OSPR made registration form available to public through Cal Spill Watch

- OSPR extended HAZCOM training to community members

- Tar ball cleanup operations
Affiliated/Community Volunteers:

- Number of Volunteers Trained: 263
- Number of Volunteers Deployed: 159

OSPR/OWCN Pre-trained Volunteers:

- Pre-trained Volunteers Deployed: 77
- OWCN Network Organizations: 21
Challenges

- No early presence from government agencies on the shorelines
- Environmentally conscious community
- Phases not clear in the initial stage of the incident
- Early in the response - lacked community volunteer opportunities
Successes

- LA/LB ACP Non-Wildlife Volunteer Plan
- Multi-agency support in the VU
- Use of Pre-trained/Affiliated volunteers early in the response
- Online volunteer registration
- Utilized Community volunteers
- Community Open House
- No reported volunteer injuries
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