



COUNTY OF MONTEREY

CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Work crews excavate the area near a mysterious oil leak near Cannery Row last month.

County Notes

- > Get rid of old, unneeded prescriptions during the Prescription Drug Take-Back event April 30th. The Sheriff's Office is hosting four collection sites. [Details are here.](#)

Clean Up 'Behind the Scenes' with Environmental Health

You may have seen in the news last month the story of how crews cleaned up a mysterious oil leak along Cannery Row which threatened the Marine Sanctuary. There is a lot more to this story.

You have likely heard the phrase, 'it takes a village.' Well, it took a village of local, state and federal agencies working quickly and together to solve the oil leak problem and protect the sanctuary from pollution. One of those agencies was the Monterey County Health Department's Environmental Health Division.

The situation began in February when a member of the public spotted an oil sheen coming out of a concrete structure near the beach along Cannery Row.

While the property where the leak was coming from belongs to the Cannery Row Company, this type of situation is not something it could handle alone.

“Eleven different agencies and stakeholders were involved,” explains Cory Welch, Environmental Health Specialist III in Environmental Health’s Underground Storage Tanks, Site Mitigation and Hazardous Materials Management Section. “The incident was under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard which initiated a unified effort, incorporating input of all the stakeholders. Several stakeholder organizations such as the California Department of Fish and Game, California Coastal Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) initiated assessments to come up with data to help in the cleanup strategy process.”

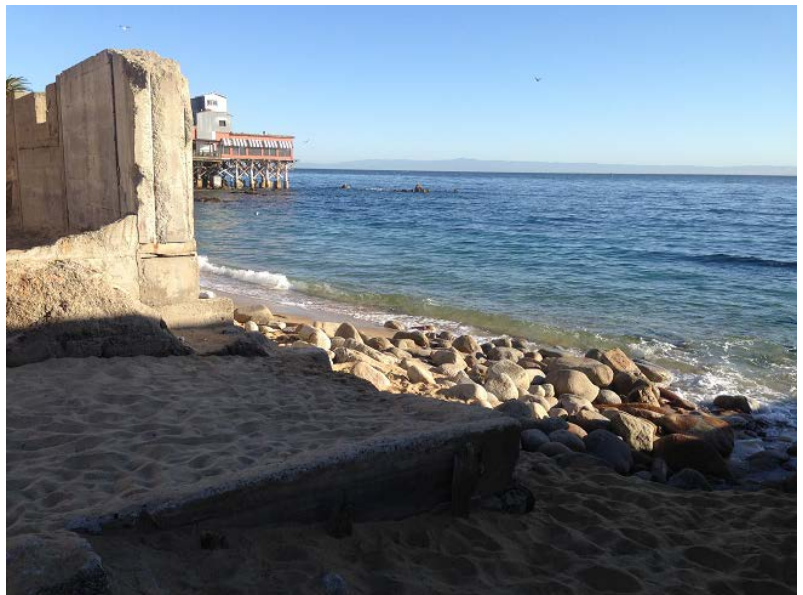
The culprit turned out to be an aged, underground oil container possibly dating back to Monterey’s sardine factory days.

Environmental Health’s role in the effort was to formulate the clean-up strategy and implementation and acted as a go between the Coast Guard and Cannery Row Company during the operation. Careful preparation and planning resulted in a quick clean-up: equipment was brought in for excavation which was completed in three days, including restoring the beach to its original condition. Crews removed approximately 70 cubic yards of oiled debris and sand plus approximately 168 gallons of oily water.

The project was so successful that the model used in this situation is expected to be used by the Coast Guard for other small cleanups they encounter in the future.

And there is more good news: the repair work on the leak appears to have worked. More than a month has passed and the repair using back-fill sand is still in place, no erosion. NOAA staff sent this note to all agencies involved:

“The...photos demonstrate that the back-fill sand is still very much in place, with no signs of erosion or migration. Note that the scour seaward of the fuel vault has exposed the boulder field between the vault and the sea. The boulder field was almost entirely covered in sand on March 16 - an indication of the dynamic shifts in sand deposition on this beach...That’s great news and a promising indicator that the site has been restored to the equilibrium that existed there prior to the remediation effort.”



The site of the oil leak a month after clean up and repair.

Summit Builds on Partnerships

The word resilient means to be able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions. The term is not just reserved for people or objects; it is now being used more frequently to describe how communities can bounce back from disaster.

Communities that are able to cope with adversity, learn from it and come out stronger for the experience are called “resilient communities.” That is something the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services (OES) has been working towards building here for the last two years with community partners.

On April 4th, OES and partners from the Community Foundation for Monterey County, United Way, the Cities of Monterey, Salinas and Gonzales and Hartnell College revisited their resilience building efforts at the third Community Resilience Summit.



Participants apply lessons learned from Napa County to Monterey County scenarios during a 'table top' exercise at the summit.

The summit, which drew 80 attendees from a broad cross section of Monterey County organizations and agencies, provided an opportunity to acknowledge advances made since OES began its resilience-building initiative in early 2014 and to collaborate on continued improvements.

Participants shared in the lessons learned from the 2014 South Napa Earthquake through a dynamic presentation by Napa County Public Works Director Steve Lederer and Emergency Management Coordinator Kevin Twohey. Dan Baldwin, President and CEO of the Community

Foundation for Monterey County offered insights on the role played by non-governmental organizations during disasters including last summer's Tassajara fire here in Monterey County. Through small and large group exercises, participants provided OES with a wealth of information on ways to continue building relationships and resilience throughout the County.

OES used the event to announce the creation of the Resilient Monterey County Partnership which recognized founding partners and launched the recruitment for additional partners. In addition, the Community Foundation for Monterey County and the Center for Non-Profit Excellence announced a June 16th workshop on business resilience planning that will be presented by OES staff.

Library Worker Honored for Community Dedication

If you are in south Monterey County, be sure to stop in at the Monterey County Free Library branch in King City and say hello to Marlene Thomason and congratulate her on being nominated for a Jefferson Award.

Jefferson Awards are named for President Thomas Jefferson and are given in recognition of community and public volunteerism. Local TV station KSBW nominates locals for the award each year.

Marlene was nominated and recognized for her nearly five decades of work with the Parkfield 4H. She has been the driving force of this group for 47 years and is working with her third generation of 4H youth. Many locals are proud to say that they have been one of Marlene's 'kids' growing up or have reaped the benefits of her work.

Marlene has worked for the libraries for many years. She was the branch head at the Parkfield library before it closed and currently works at the King City branch.

"Marlene brings that great sense of community and dedication to everything she does and is a shining example for all of us," says County Librarian Jayanti Addleman. "We are so proud of you Marlene! Thank you for all your amazing work in the community and with the libraries."

You can find out more about Marlene in this [video feature](#).



Marlene Thomason.