

Red Butte Canyon Spill Unified Command Community Update

June 18, 2010

Chevron Plans to Flush Red Butte Creek Tomorrow

Crews have been working around-the-clock to recover freestanding oil from the Red Butte Canyon spill.

It is estimated that approximately 800 barrels of oil were spilled. As of June 18, crews have recovered approximately 600 barrels and continue to make significant progress.

While most of the oil located in the water ways was recovered by vacuum trucks, some residue remains on the bank of the creek and in the culverts. To collect this oil, plans have been developed to release water as early as Saturday, June 19, from Red Butte Reservoir to increase the creek's flow rate and water level.

By increasing the creek's flow rate and water level in this designated area, oil that is currently on the banks of the creek and in the culverts will be washed downstream, captured by the booms, and collected by vacuum trucks and absorbent materials along the way.

Residents along the creek will notice a slightly increased water level and flow rate that will last between 3 and 4 hours. The water level will be comparable to levels reached during a rain storm. The creek's flow rate will increase from 7 cubic feet per second up to 14 cubic feet per second. To ensure safety, residents – especially children – should stay away from the creek during this operation.

There may be an increased odor around the boom sites as additional oil is collected. Air monitoring will be conducted to ensure that there are no toxicity concerns. Chevron will accommodate any residents who may be inconvenienced by an increased odor. Residents should call (866) 752-6340 for additional information about alternative accommodations.

Residents along the Jordan River should not be affected by this operation. The booms and absorbent material along the creek will be monitored to prevent oil from flowing downstream.

Plans have also been developed and reviewed by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to test the integrity of the pipeline. This process includes a thorough review of pipeline data and testing to ensure it is safe. Once these tests have been successfully completed, the pipeline will be put back into service. Timing of the start-up is currently being evaluated.

Red Butte Canyon Spill Unified Command is made up of the following organizations: Chevron, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake Valley Health Department and Salt Lake City.