



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Clean-up Continues at Site of Second Chevron Oil Spill

City-contracted oversight team begins independent evaluations

SALT LAKE CITY – Clean-up efforts continued Friday at the site of Wednesday’s Chevron oil spill on University of Utah property near the entrance of the Red Butte Garden Outdoor Amphitheatre.

Salt Lake City Fire Department spokesman Capt. Michael Harp reported Friday that approximately 90 percent of the crude oil that leaked from the 10-inch Chevron pipeline had been recovered. Harp said efforts were also underway to remove contaminated soil from the site, with that work about 50 percent completed.

Air and water quality monitoring in the area also continued on Friday. While samples from nearby Red Butte Creek were still being processed, no physical evidence was present of oil contamination related to the most recent incident. Real-time air quality testing indicated hydrocarbon levels were below the threshold of short-term health hazards and laboratory testing of samples from the spill site and surrounding area is underway.

Harp said Friday that emergency personnel were completing their responsibilities at the incident site, though fire department officials will continue to maintain a nearby mobile command center.

“The speed and efficiency in our response to this incident helped to ensure that damage was contained to a relatively small area,” Harp said. “While our role as first responders ends, and Chevron Hazmat teams continue clean-up work, the department will maintain a presence at the site to monitor ongoing efforts.”

Salt Lake City Public Utilities Director Jeff Niermeyer met with federal authorities and Utah Congressman Jim Matheson Friday morning to tour the spill site and discuss initial steps in the U.S. Department of Transportation’s investigation of the incident.

Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker deployed Paul Fuglevand, a principal in the Seattle-based environmental and remediation consulting firm, Dalton, Olmsted and Fuglevand, Inc. – the city’s contracted independent, third-party team of environmental experts – to begin oversight of the work being conducted by Chevron and investigators from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Fuglevand was at the spill site on Friday to begin evaluations.

“This independent oversight team is tasked with ensuring a complete and thorough investigation into this most recent incident,” Mayor Becker said. “Our foremost concern is guaranteeing public safety, both in the near-term and going forward.” The Mayor is scheduled to meet with PHMSA officials in Washington, D.C. on Monday.