



NEWS RELEASE – for immediate release

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Cleanup efforts begun on small tar masses from *New Carissa* wreck

***Environmental contractor discovers quarter- to six-inch sized balls
at 8:00 Friday morning***

North Bend – Local oil spill responders were deployed this morning after NRC Environmental Services supervisor Randy Henry discovered small balls of heavily sanded, “asphaltic” balls of hardened oil coming ashore south of the wreck removal operations. He saw the debris while making his daily inspection rounds of the area.

According to removal contractor Titan, the balls are not visible from the barges that flank the remaining wreckage.

Henry estimates that if the balls, which are hard throughout with a slightly soft center, were in liquid form, it would amount to only about one to two quarts of liquid total.

“This appears to be a very minor event,” said Titan managing director, David Parrot. “We are fortunate to have an oil spill response plan and team in place, which has been activated. The local co-op response team has been sent to the beach and we’ve called in contracted responders from Portland as well.”

“We take this situation very seriously, and it underscores the importance of being prepared, no matter how minor the event appears to be. We’ve established a network of responders that will be working until everything is cleaned up,” said Louise Solliday, director of the Department of State Lands who has the contract with Titan to remove the *New Carissa* wreck.

The beach in the immediate vicinity has been closed until further notice. The area currently comprises about 150 yards (north to south) along the beach in front of the wreck site. The Foredune Road and bypass around the Titan work site remain open.

Response crews will continue monitoring and picking up the material on the beach today and possibly throughout the weekend. High surf and stormy seas prevent clean up from the water said Parrot.

The State Land Board consists of Governor Theodore Kulongoski, Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and State Treasurer Randall Edwards. The Department of State Lands administers diverse natural and fiscal resources. Many of the resources generate revenue for the Common School Fund, such as state-owned rangelands and timberlands, waterway leases, estates for which no will or heirs exist, and unclaimed property. Twice a year, the agency distributes fund investment earnings to support K-12 public schools. The agency also administers Oregon's Removal-Fill Law, which requires people removing or filling certain amounts of material in waters of the state to obtain a permit.

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