

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**



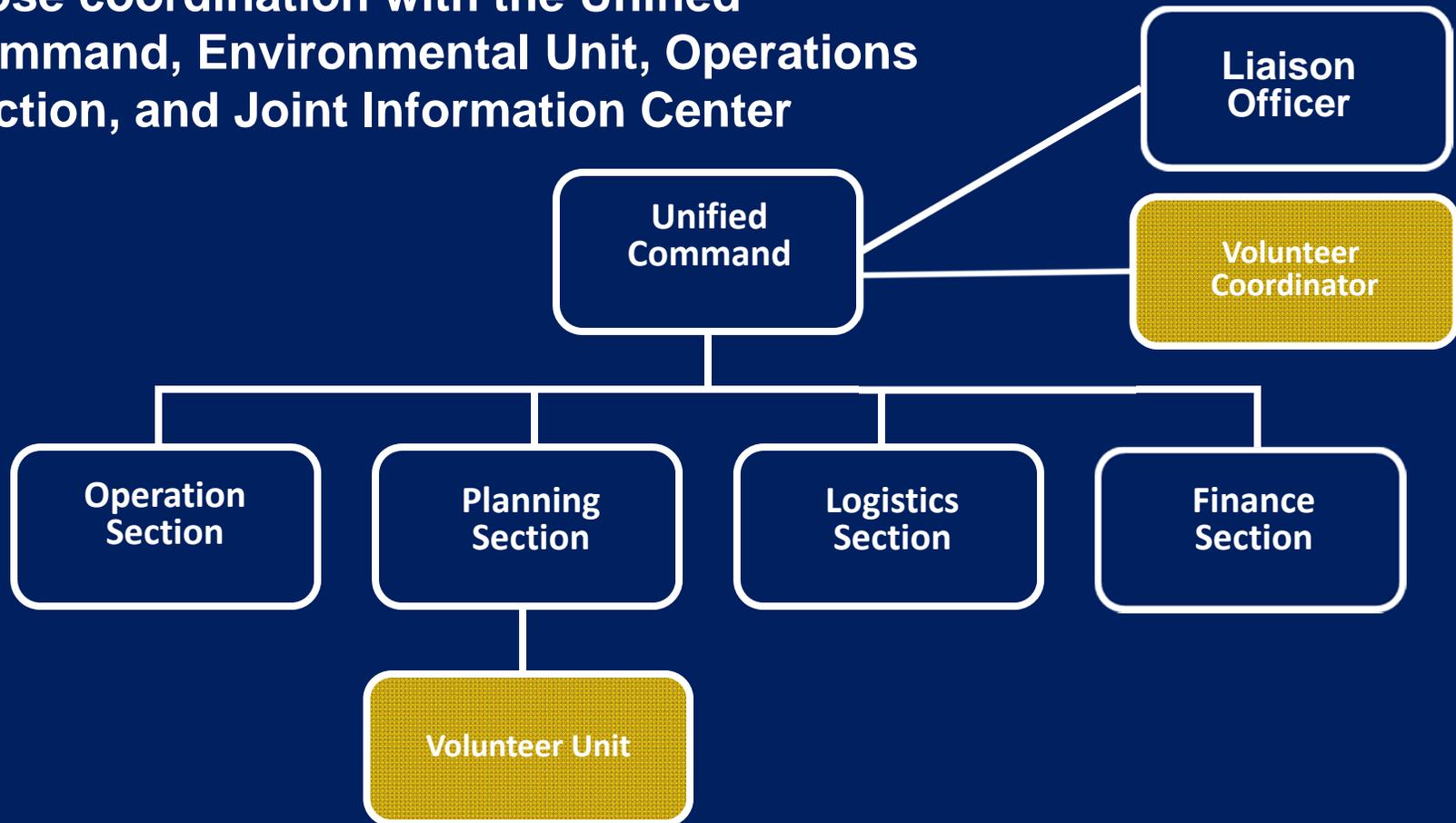
Relevant Plans

- 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





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**





Oiled Wildlife Care Network

UC Davis Wildlife Health Center

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

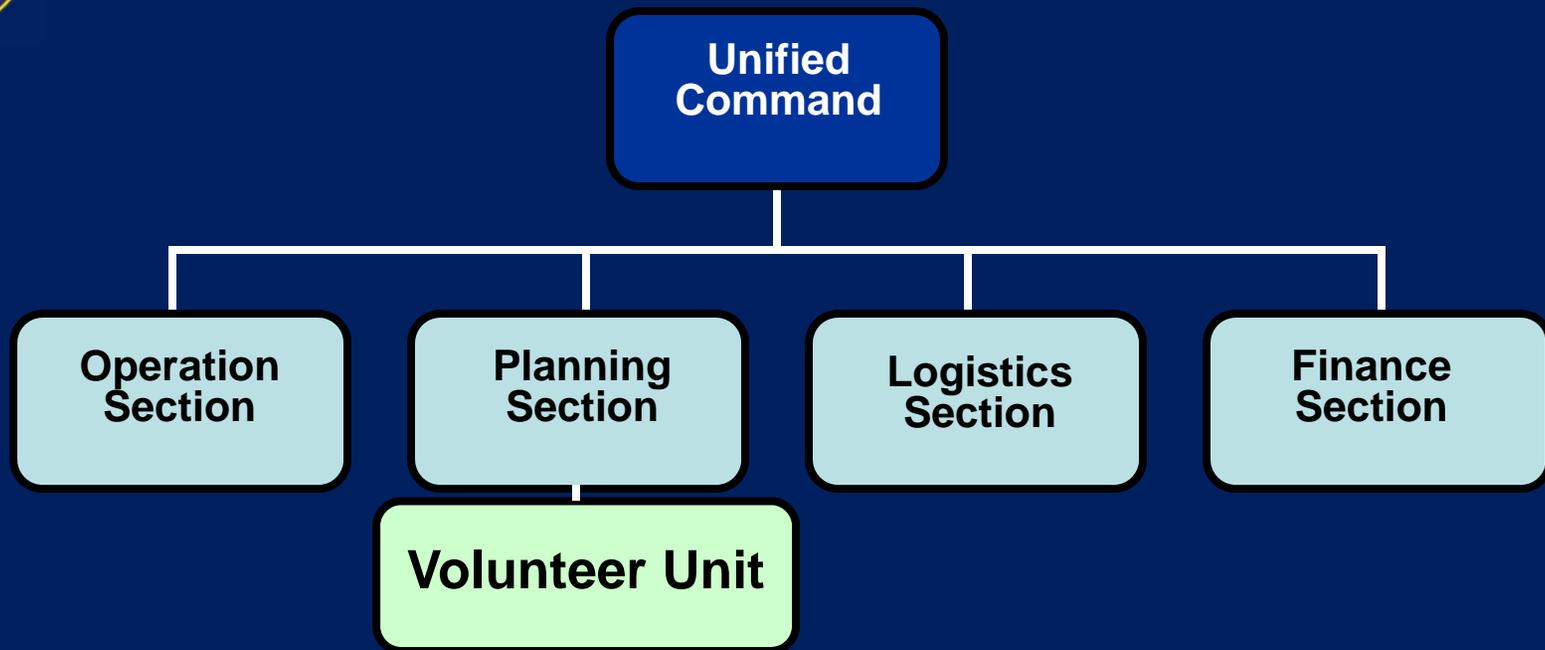


Refugio Oil Spill Incident Volunteers





Refugio Incident Volunteer Coordinators / Unit



Supporting Agencies:

- Santa Barbara County/City - CERT
- CaliforniaVolunteers
- 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





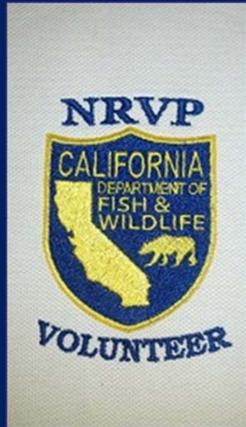
Refugio Incident CERT

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



Refugio Incident Community Volunteers

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

REFUGIO SPILL RESPONSE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Volunteer Coordination Agency is the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Office of Spill Prevention and Response, working with CalVolunteer, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management.

Specialized training is required by Cal-OSHA to ensure volunteer and wildlife safety. Without proper training, well-meaning members of the community can do more harm than good.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, please call or visit:

Email: spillvolunteer@wildlife.ca.gov

Website: calspillwatch.com





Volunteer Snapshot



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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OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

