

# Beach reopened after oil spill

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A stretch of Ventura County coastline that was closed Tuesday after an oil spill was reopened Wednesday after officials finished cleaning up the mess.

About 55 gallons of oil spilled into the ocean about a mile north of Faria Beach after a small landslide caused a pipeline to rupture.

Four seagulls lightly coated in oil were spotted, but wildlife rescue officials were not able to catch the birds, said Carol Singleton, a California Department of Fish and Game spokeswoman.

Although officials thought the rupture happened about 10 p.m. Monday, it wasn't discovered until Wednesday morning. About 210 gallons spilled in total, though only a portion reached the beach when it drained down a nearby creek. The oil was contained within a quarter-mile of shore, officials said.

Singleton said a tar ball was found on the beach near Seaward Avenue and tests were being done to determine if it came from the spill or was a natural seepage.

Vintage Production, which owns the pipeline, will be responsible for reimbursing the agencies involved in the cleanup, she said.

Anyone who sees oiled wildlife is asked to call the Oiled Wildlife Care Network at 877-823-6926.