



June 4, 2015

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Public Information Office**  
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**(714) 536-5577**

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In response to the recent news regarding tar along the SoCal coastline, the City of Huntington Beach would like to assure our residents, businesses and visitors that our beaches are clean, open, and the City is ready for a great summer in Surf City, USA.

The presence of tar along our beaches is an occasional occurrence in Huntington Beach and has been for decades. Our beaches experience this phenomenon as Huntington Beach was, and still is, an area that has natural oil formations below the surface and an active oil production industry. To date, we have cleaned up a small area of tar balls along a stretch of Sunset Beach earlier this week.

Our Marine Safety team has been monitoring our coastline daily, and we do not foresee any beach or water closures. In fact, it has been 25 years since the city had to close the beach at the waterline (beach remained open, but going into water was prohibited) due to the American Trader crude oil spill in 1990.

We will continue to work closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, Orange County Health Department and other neighboring cities to monitor our coastline, and will keep you updated in the days and weeks ahead on this situation. We are excited for another great summer and welcome residents and visitors alike to enjoy all Surf City has to offer.

Fire officials request any future sightings of tar balls be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center hotline at 800.424.8802. If you have any questions, please contact the City's Community Relations Officer Julie Toledo at [julie.toledo@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:julie.toledo@surfcity-hb.org) or 714.536.5577.

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