



**United States Coast Guard**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

September 10, 2020

**U.S. Coast Guard Sector Buffalo**

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# News Release

## **COAST GUARD AND NYDEC MONITORING OIL SPILL CLEAN UP ON BUFFALO RIVER**

BUFFALO, NY – The Coast Guard and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation continue to oversee the clean up of an oil spill near the former ExxonMobil refinery site on Elk Street.

There is a petroleum discharge that is entering into the Buffalo River in the vicinity of a combined sewer overflow (CSO) pipe located at the foot of Babcock Street. Recent oil analysis indicates the product to be petroleum oil with characteristics resembling degraded light fuel and lubricating oil.

The responsible party has placed a boom around the discharge site to capture the discharge and has hired contractors to monitor the site and safely remove the product from the water.

The source of the oil is believed to be associated with subsurface contamination under and adjacent to the CSO outfall structure as a result of former refinery operations. The location is an existing remediation site. At the direction of the Coast Guard and DEC, the site owner is currently investigating why this discharge is occurring, as well as developing a corrective action plan to prevent further discharge of the product or damage to the river environment. DEC and USCG reserve all enforcement rights.

All kayakers and recreational boaters are cautioned to avoid the northern half of the Buffalo River near the former refinery site as it is an active worksite, and to report any signs of pollution to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

For media inquiries, contact Sector Buffalo Public Affairs Officer Joe Neff at (334) 224-5868.

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