



SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
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Tar removed from beach

South Padre Island, TX, Feb. 14, 2017: This morning several pieces of tar washed ashore on the south end of South Padre Island. The tar is most likely residual left from a natural seep or oil spill several years ago. The Shoreline crew began cleaning the affected area and was completed about 1 p.m. this afternoon.

The South Padre Island Shoreline Department and other City departments along with the General Land Office (GLO) Oil Spill Prevention and Response Team and U.S. Coast Guard, are on scene and working in unified command with City staff. The tar has been loaded onto a trailer for disposal by the GLO.

“It is common place for oil to naturally seep out of the seafloor and then remain suspended in the gulf currents,” said Brandon Hill, shoreline director, “The biofouling of the tar consists of barnacles and branching bryozoans. This is an indication that the tar beached is several years old.”



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