



News Release for Colerain Fire

For Immediate Release

Date: **March 21, 2014**

Updates from the 08:00am operational and 10:00am media briefings:

Work continued overnight on collection of oil from Zone 3 (the pond near East Miami River Road). Additional product was recovered overnight and added to yesterday's totals. The holding tanks containing the oil and water mixture will now sit for 18-24 hours to allow the oil to separate from the water. The total oil and water mixture now totals approximately 9100 gallons. Future collections will utilize a separate holding tank to allow for a more accurate calculation of oil collected versus water.

The environmental impact continues to be a high priority. The Hamilton County Public Health Department remains involved in the operations to ensure safe and clean drinking water is available from the area's well. Additional resources have also been added to the operational plan to monitor any migration of oil to other areas. So far, there is no indication that any oil has been detected outside of any of the work zones.

Cleanup crews remain highly aware of the potential for wildlife contamination and provide routine checks of the areas to ensure no wildlife has been affected. In cases where an animal is identified and affected by contamination, resources have been organized through Great Parks and the Ohio Division of Wildlife to take care of these issues as they arise. A total of 3 salamanders have been removed from the area and cleaned. They are awaiting relocation by Parks representatives. One deceased frog has also been recovered from the region but preliminary impressions do not suggest it had any contact with any oil product and its death was most likely caused by natural causes.

Rainy weather is expected to move into the region overnight and into Saturday. Preliminary planning forecasts do not suggest that the rain will pose any problems or delay operations on scene.

As the operations on site continue to develop without incident, media briefings will be scaled back to include only ONE MEDIA BRIEFING PER DAY instead of the routine two per day. Today's 6:30pm media briefing is CANCELLED and beginning tomorrow there will be ONE briefing per day at the Incident Command Site at 10:00am. As developments occur, updates will be broadcast and disseminated through press releases and social media (Twitter @Colerain_Fire).

Questions or inquiries into this incident may be directed to Public Information Officer: Captain Steve Conn at 513-615-8698, sconn@colerain.org,