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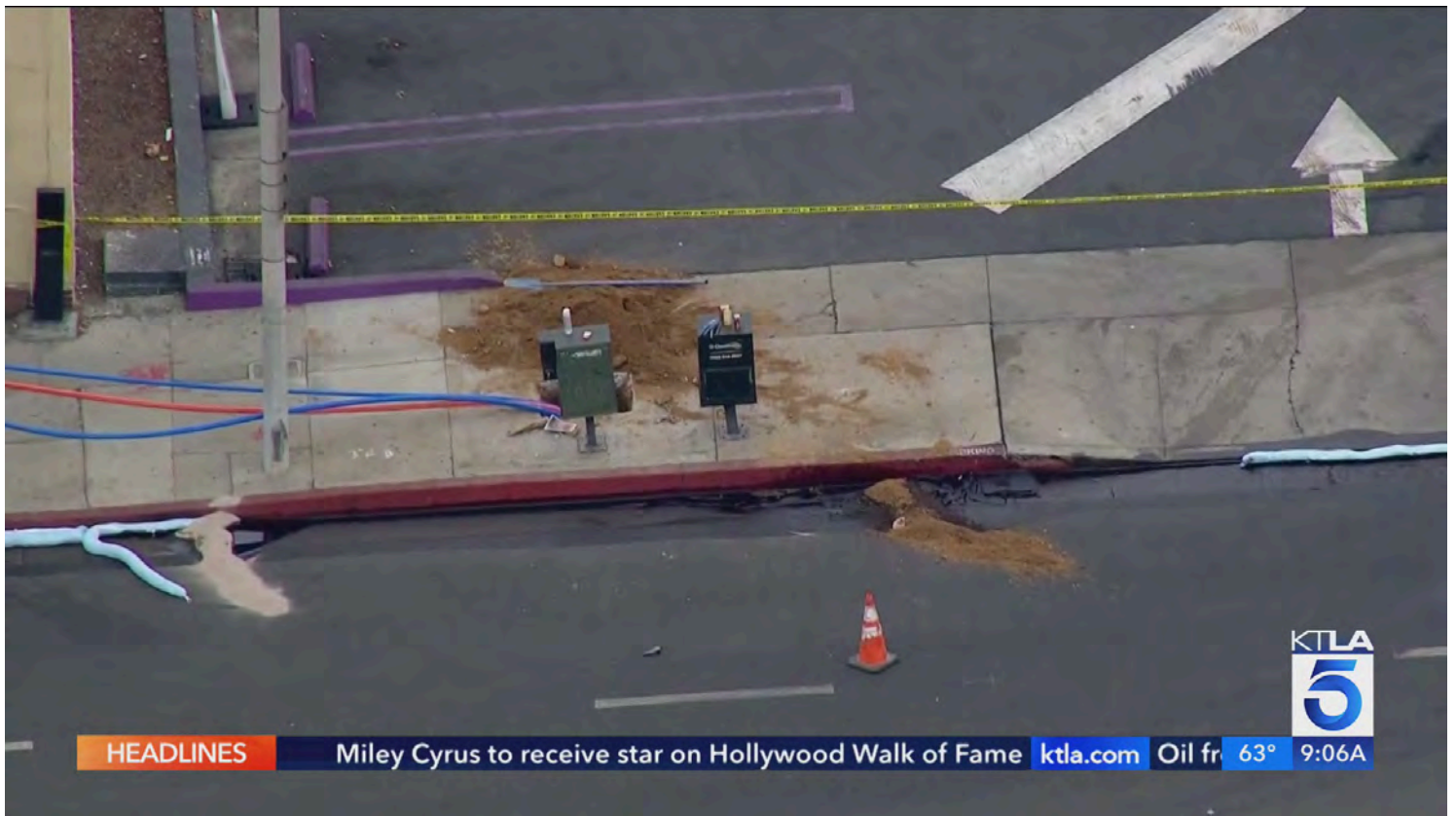
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LOCAL NEWS

Health officials warn East L.A residents about odor after 2,400 gallons of oil spill

by: [Jocelyn Fiset](#)

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Los Angeles County Public Health officials gave new guidance to residents after a [ruptured pipeline](#) released approximately 2,400 gallons of crude oil along a major East Los Angeles street and into nearby storm drains on Friday morning, prompting a major cleanup operation.

The leak, near Cesar Chavez and Eastern avenues, has been controlled and is no longer spilling crude oil in the streets, officials announced.

Health officials are warning the public that if they smell odors outdoors, close windows and doors, turn off HVAC systems and air conditioners that pull in outside air, and stay indoors until the odor has passed.



Sky5 was over a crude oil spill in East Los Angeles on Friday, May 22, 2026. (KTLA)

After the odor is gone, officials say to open windows and doors to air out homes and turn on fans or HVAC systems to ventilate the indoor air.

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CPAP machines, motorized wheelchairs, respirators and more are covered by the Medical Baseline Program.

Residents may experience the following symptoms due to odors:

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If symptoms are severe or do not go away, residents are urged to contact their medical provider. You can also call the Public Health – Community Health Complaint Line at (626) 430-9821.

To reduce potential exposures, residents can:

- Stay away from spilled oil and contaminated debris. Do not touch or walk through affected areas. Keep children and pets away.
- If oil gets on your skin or clothing, wash with soap and water right away and change into clean clothes.

Odor complaints can be directed to South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD): 1-800-288-7664.

The LAPD received calls around 3:40 a.m. that a construction crew working near East Cesar Chavez and Eastern avenues had nicked the pipe while laying a fiber-optic line, KTLA's Annie Rose Ramos learned.

Broken pipeline spills crude oil into L.A. River in East Los Angeles ➤

“Product entered storm drains and released into the Los Angeles River,” the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Spill Prevention and Response [posted on X](#).

No visibly oiled wildlife had been observed, officials said.

Fire department crews contacted the pipeline operator, who shut down the leak in about half an hour, but a large amount of product did escape, officials said.

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