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Singapore oil spill contained after ship collision

An oil spill from a tanker damaged in a collision off eastern Singapore has been mostly contained by emergency response teams.

Hours after the collision, an oil slick about 4 kilometres long and 1 kilometre wide was spotted near the east coast of Singapore.

A spokeswoman for petroleum shipper AET says the leaked crude will not spread out of the clean-up zone.

The Malaysian-registered tanker MT Bunga Kelana 3 was carrying nearly 62,000 tonnes of crude when it collided with the MV Waily on Tuesday morning.

About 5,000 tonnes of crude leaked from a gash on the double-hulled tanker's port side, according to Singapore port officials.

Double-hulled tankers are designed to limit spillage in case of a rupture.

The company says the spill is now being cleaned up by specialists using a small armada of boats.

"Efforts resumed early this morning, with the addition of more than 100 personnel deployed along the shoreline in case the spill reaches the coast," the company said in a statement.

Louis Ng, executive director of Animal Concerns Research and Education Society, says the spill should not have a big environmental impact.

"If they manage to contain it, then it won't affect wildlife that much," he said.