



ALAN FREUND / Herald

SCENE OF SPILL: Though much of the nearly 40,000 gallons of oil that spilled at the Perma Fix Environmental Services facility had been cleaned up by Tuesday, some was still adhering to tanks, trucks and pipes in the containment field.

Feds, state investigate oil spill in Davie

By **TRISH POWER**
Herald Staff Writer

As a cadre of local, state and federal investigators focused on the criminal aspect of a nearly 40,000-gallon oil spill, workers geared up for the next phase of the cleanup at the Davie oil reclamation plant.

"There has been a significant improvement," said Cathy Porthouse, a specialist for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. "They worked through the night, around the clock. Most of the free liquid is up."

The next step is to remove the gunky black oil clinging to equipment, seeping into the soil or floating on standing water.

pipes in the containment field, scraping up contaminated soil and packing it into drums, and skimming oil from some large ponds around the facility.

"At this point, there have been some localized impacts, but beyond that, any environmental impact is minimum if any," Burger said.

After the cleanup, Perma Fix will be required to pay for an environmental assessment to determine the impact on soil or ground water.

"That process could take a couple of months," Burger said.

The spill at Perma Fix Environmental Services was discovered shortly after 5 p.m. Monday when an employee arrived for

eight storage tanks in the yard, sending used oil spewing across the containment field, said Scott Strauss, customer service manager.

The containment field is built to hold 110 percent of the total storage capacity, but because of the pressure, some of it escaped into the adjoining property.

Because of the magnitude of the spill, a variety of agencies were called in to investigate.

"Obviously, there has been some tampering here, vandalism, sabotage, whatever you want to call it," said Paul Miller, FBI spokesman. "If we can identify the person or persons responsible, we can charge them. ... There are a number of federal

OIL SPILL

