



*Santa Rosa County Public Information* ▪ 4499 Pine Forest Road ▪ Milton, Florida ▪ 32583 ▪ (850) 983-5254

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill #4  
May 3, 2010  
7 p.m.

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### *Deepwater Horizon Incident Update #4*

#### **Situation Update**

- Local areas are not expected to begin seeing the impact of the Deepwater Horizon collapse in the next 72 hours.
- Residents may have or begin to notice an odor carried in by the winds from off shore.
- Individuals concerned about air quality issues can view an up-to-date map with pollutant concentrations at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill) or [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov), or they can report suspected changes in air quality at <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>.

#### **Community Meetings**

- Two community information meetings were held today with over 400 people combined attending. Video of the Navarre Visitor's Center meeting will be posted by noon tomorrow at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill).
- Future community meetings will be announced as they are scheduled.
- Santa Rosa County officials and emergency management staff are available to speak to groups, please contact 983-5360 for more details.

#### **Volunteers**

- Today alone, over 60 volunteers and seven volunteer groups with 10-60 members each, registered to volunteer for future oil spill response.
- Trainings for Santa Rosa County volunteers are currently being scheduled. Times and locations are anticipated to be announced no later than Wednesday.
- To become a part of the Santa Rosa County volunteer data base for volunteer opportunities that may arise, contact the Volunteer Reception Center operated through Help Thy Neighbors in coordination with emergency management at (850) 983-5223.
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#### **Actions Taken By Santa Rosa County**

- Emergency management staff had identified long and short term objectives, to include but not limited to:
  - Identify training needed for workers and volunteers to participate in clean-up
  - Monitor water for oil or affected wildlife
  - Document local resources used
  - Research and track financial impacts and tourism
  - Prepare contingency plan for response to protect Santa Rosa resources
  - Monitor requests made to unified command
- Maps, including overall locations and a priority listing, of the U.S. Coast Guard's booming strategy are available online at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill). Additional locations have also been suggested by Santa Rosa County through the unified command system including the 3-Mile, Garcon Point, Bob Sikes and I-10 bridges.
  - Additional information was provided as requested today by unified command regarding Santa Rosa County's booming suggestions including:
    - Wildlife that would be protected

- Habitat that would be protected
  - Species that would be threatened
  - Suggested collection points
  - Possible staging areas
  - Length needed
  - Protection strategy
- Santa Rosa County will watch for possible cases of contractor fraud related to the oil spill, will track and document these cases, and submit the information to state officials.
  - A local state of emergency was declared at 3 p.m., Friday, April 30, allowing the county to implement proactive measures as needed.
  - Emergency management officials continue to participate in the unified command and State of Florida Department of Emergency Management conference calls to obtain the latest information to plan our role accordingly.
  - Pre-qualified debris contractors and environmental engineering consultants have been contacted and are ready to respond as required.
  - The EOC is activated at a level 2, or partial activation with essential staff, from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. until further notice.
  - The Santa Rosa County Citizen Information Line at (850) 983-INFO or 4636 is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.
  - For more information [www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill)

### **BP Resources**

- 90,000 feet of boom has been placed in our region.
- Due to weather conditions, only 3,000 feet was placed today.
- The goal for our region is 19,000 feet per day.

### **NOAA Closes Commercial and Recreational Fishing in Oil-Affected Portion of Gulf of Mexico**

- NOAA is restricting fishing for a minimum of ten days in federal waters most affected by the BP oil spill, largely between Louisiana state waters at the mouth of the Mississippi River to waters off Florida's Pensacola Bay. The closure is effective immediately.
- Details can be found at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>
- Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call (800) 440-0858.

### **About the Booming Strategy**

- Boom placement will be based on tides and where the oil is threatening.
- The U.S. Coast Guard's booming strategy for Santa Rosa County focuses on identified environmentally sensitive areas. Estuaries and inlets are at the top of the list, not the beach areas. This is to protect sensitive habitat that support wildlife and fish. If the oil washes on the beach, the sand can be cleaned. If the oil reaches the estuaries and inlets, it could be devastating to our local wildlife and fish habitat, taking years to recover.
- Please note booms are not a fail safe solution. They can become ineffective in high seas, strong winds, or currents over one knot. Resources are currently staged in Pensacola in preparation for a response for our area.
- Santa Rosa County is working through the Florida Emergency Operations Center under the incident command of the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection and ultimately the unified command currently operational in Mobile. Our county provides input, but the operational decisions are through the unified command. Santa Rosa County continues to work to maximize protection and minimize impacts.

### **Precautions for Affected Areas**

- Avoid entering areas where oil can be seen or smelled. If you see or smell oil, leave the area right away.
- Avoid direct skin contact with oil, oil-contaminated water and sediments.
- Do not swim or ski in areas affected by the oil spill, and if you travel through the area by boat, take precautions when hoisting the boat anchor. If you get oil on your skin, wash it off immediately with soap and water.

- Do not fish in the oil spill-affected waters.
- Do not harvest and eat dead fish, fish with oily residue or fish that have a petroleum odor.
- Do not drive your boat through slicks or sheens.
- Young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and individuals with underlying respiratory conditions should avoid the area.
- Restrict pets from entering oil-contaminated areas.

### **Tarball Safety**

- For most people, an occasional brief contact with a small amount of oil, while not recommended, will do no harm. However, some people are especially sensitive to chemicals, including the hydrocarbons found in crude oil and petroleum products. They may have an allergic reaction or develop rashes even from brief contact with oil. In general, we recommend that contact with oil be avoided.
- If contact occurs, wash the area with soap and water, baby oil, or a widely used, safe cleaning compound such as cleaning paste sold at auto parts stores.
- Avoid using solvents, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, or similar products on the skin.

### **Air Quality**

Some individuals are more susceptible to change in air quality due to medical conditions. Anyone who is concerned about change in air quality due to this event should contact their primary health care provider, as each of us has a unique health profile.

- As with wildfires and other events that increase particulate matter in the air, consider staying inside, in an air-conditioned room and change the air-conditioner filter to ensure peak performance.
- Avoid strenuous activities outside.
- If you have difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or other serious symptoms, seek immediate medical attention.
- Individuals with an air quality question or concern should contact the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

### **Boats**

- Boat traffic is highly encouraged to avoid any spill areas.
- Boats that must transit through affected zones should maintain a safe speed through the oil that appears light, bright, and on the surface.
- Boats should make every effort to avoid pockets of heavy black oil.
- Boat owners are urged to dry-dock boats.
- Boater should avoid booms and should not drive over any booms.

### **About the Oil**

- The oil condition that is expected to impact shorelines is predicted to be a gel or paste-like emulsion and of tarball consistency, stranding in a discontinuous and patchy manner. The oil is also expected to be brown, sticky and possibly emitting a sheen associated with emulsified oil.
- Due to the low aromatic content, the acute toxicity is low relative to fresher oil.
- It will stick to emergent and aquatic vegetation, birds, fur-bearing mammals and reptiles.

### **Affects on Wildlife**

- The affect on wildlife can include: smothering of invertebrates, ingestion, loss of ability to thermoregulate, eye and mucus membrane irritation, and transport of oil through marshes by animals
- The biodegradation is slow, which could lead to chronic effects on fish, invertebrates, and wildlife.
- Toxicity or harmful effects are dependent upon:
  - mixture and types of chemicals that make up the oil or are used to clean up the oil,
  - amount of exposure (dose for internal exposures or time for external exposures),
  - route of exposure (inhaled, ingested, absorbed, or external), and
  - Biomedical risk factors of the animal (age, sex, reproductive stage, and health status). For turtles this will include differing impacts and vulnerabilities at the different life stages such as

eggs, post-hatchlings, juveniles and adults. For cetaceans this will include neonates, calves, juveniles and adults.

### **Habitat Impact**

- The habitats with the highest sensitivity are mangroves, marshes, barrier islands, sheltered tidal flats, and shallow sub-tidal areas.
- The lowest is sandy beach because it is the easiest to clean, as both manual and heavy equipment may be used.

### **Impact on Seafood**

- Crude oil has the potential to taint seafood with flavors and odors imparted by exposure to hydrocarbon chemicals. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulate the presence of hydrocarbons as a possible adulterant in seafood.
- The public should not be concerned about the safety of seafood they are buying at this time. The spill has not reached the coastal area and the seafood on the market has not been affected. The Federal and State governments have strong systems in place to test and monitor seafood safety and to prohibit harvesting from affected areas, keeping oiled products out of the market.
- NOAA Fisheries is working closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the States to ensure seafood safety.

### **Clean-Up Jobs**

- Workforce Escarosa, Inc. will host hiring events in effort to recruit and screen applicants for an estimated 500 clean-up jobs with Advanced Employment Solutions on the following dates:
  - Tuesday, May 4- 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Workforce Escarosa Milton One-Stop located at 5725 Hwy. 90
  - Wednesday, May 5- 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Workforce Escarosa Pensacola One-Stop located at 3670-A North L Street
  - Wednesday, May 5- 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Workforce Escarosa Century One-Stop located at 8120 North Century Blvd.
- Applicants must bring proof of U.S. citizenship, a valid driver's license, and any relevant credentials. For more information, visit [www.employflorida.com](http://www.employflorida.com) and search for job order numbers 9481666, 9481677, 9481703, 9481718, and 9481331.

### **BP Claim Line**

- BP has established a claim system that will allow people to begin the process to recover lost income or recoup damage related expense at (800)-440-0858.

### **Vessels of Opportunity (boats) program**

- BP is looking to contract shrimp boats, oyster boats and other vessels for hire through the Vessel of Opportunities Program to deploy boom in the Gulf of Mexico. For more information (425) 745-8017

### **Alternative Response Technology**

- To submit alternative response technology, services or products please email [horizonsupport@oegllc.com](mailto:horizonsupport@oegllc.com) or call (281) 366-5511.

### **Oiled Wildlife**

- To report oiled wildlife, please call 1-866-557-1401 and leave a message. Messages will be checked hourly. Individuals are urged not to attempt to help injured or oiled animals, but to report any sightings to the toll free number.

### **Report Oil Sightings**

- To report oiled shoreline, please call 1-866-448-5816.

### **Other Contact Numbers**

- Transocean hotline: 832-587-8554

- MI Swaco hotline: 888-318-6765
- BP Investor Relations: 381-366-3123
- BP family hotline: 281-36-578
- BP third party contractor hotline: 281-366-5578

### **General Safety Information**

- [www.santarosa.fl.gov](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov)
- Please monitor your home weather radio and local media outlets for the most up-to-date information.
- Your best defense in any disaster is a NOAA Weather radio.
- Citizens can sign up to automatically receive breaking news alerts from Santa Rosa County Emergency Management via e-mail or as a text message on their cell phone at:  
[www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/publicwarning.html](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/publicwarning.html).

### **Citizen Information Line**

- The Santa Rosa County Citizen Information Line at (850) 983-INFO or 4636 is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.
- Citizens may call (850) 983-INFO (4636) with questions.

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