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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill #46
June 25, 2010
4:00 p.m.

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Deepwater Horizon Incident Update #46
(Highlighted sections indicate new information)

Situation Update

- **Navarre Beach and Santa Rosa's entire coastline is open for swimming and fishing.** Two links to live Web cams on Navarre Beach are available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill.
- Santa Rosa County and the City of Gulf Breeze held a press conference today, June 25 at Shoreline Park South to discuss the Deepwater Oil response assets in our area. You can view the press conference at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill under "What's Hot."
- Commission Chair Gordon Goodin and county staff met with two White House staff members today, June 25 to discuss issues with the Deepwater Horizon response in Santa Rosa County.
- Today, June 25, no tar balls or other oil product was found on Navarre Beach.
- Unified command reports there are 10 vessel of opportunity skimmers deployed to the Pensacola Pass.
- According to the NOAA oil plume model, the oil plume is seven miles from Pensacola, 75 miles from Mexico Beach and 293 miles from St. Petersburg. NOAA trajectories indicate possible shoreline impacts along the western panhandle through Sunday mainly west of Destin.
- A slight change in winds and currents has minimized the potential for oil impacts to continue moving east. Impacts in the already affected areas in Northwest Florida will continue within the next 72 hours.
- Tar balls, tar patties and mousse continue to be found in Northwest Florida, with the heaviest impacts reported between Escambia and Walton Counties.
- The majority of impacts to Florida's shoreline will likely be highly weathered, in the form of tar balls, oil sheen, tar mats or mousse – a pudding-like oil/water mixture that could be brown, rust or orange in color.
- The tropical wave in the western Caribbean Sea has a 70 percent chance of developing into a tropical depression within the next 48 hours.
- Current oil spill conditions are available online through the State Emergency Response Team GATOR map at <http://map.floridadisaster.org/GATOR/>. The map provides real time alerts, information and gives updates on oil on Florida's coastline. The SERT Gator map encompasses the entire Gulf coast and is color coded. Green circles are used for routine recon reports, orange for priority recon reports and red for emergency recon reports.
- On June 24, there were no reports of tar balls on Navarre Beach. However, **June grass, which is a feathery-like algae, continues to be reported in the wrack line** (This is the line of debris that rests on the beach at the highest reach of the surging waves. The most prominent feature of the sea wrack is usually clumps of algae, or "seaweed.")
- **In order to expedite responses to oiled wildlife, please contact the oiled wildlife hotline at 1-866-557-1401 if oiled wildlife is spotted. Qualified personnel will respond to the report. Please do not touch or try and clean oiled wildlife.**
- **Citizens are asked not to have direct contact with oil and oil contaminated products such as tar balls, tar patties, tar mats, and oil sheen. Only qualified members should handle oil products and oil contaminated materials. To report tar or oil on the beach, call the Florida State Warning Point Line at 1-877-272-8335 or # DEP from a cell phone.**
- Skimming and recreational vessel decontamination facilities are being established across the panhandle. The current list of vessel decontamination locations within the U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Sector for oiled boats is available at <http://bpdecon.com>.

- There are 3,536 Qualified Community Responders in the Pensacola and Panama City and 2,993 beach cleanup personnel actively working the cleanup effort in the Florida Panhandle.
- Reconnaissance missions are being coordinated daily from the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee using air, land, and sea assets from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Civil Air Patrol, and the Florida National Guard.
- Secretary Sole signed an emergency order authorizing the burning of product off shore in Florida waters. The county will notify residents before the burning starts.
- Dispersants in Florida waters have been approved.
- Perdido Pass, Pensacola Pass and Bayou Texar are navigationally restricted during flood (incoming) tide and reopen during ebb (outgoing) tide as water flows out to the gulf. They are manned to allow access to necessary vessel traffic. Boaters in areas where skimming is being conducted, or where boom has been set, have been requested to maintain no-wake speeds.
- The Gulf Oil Economic Recovery Task Force will meet on June 30 at the University of West Florida Conference Center Building 22 located at 11000 University Parkway in Pensacola from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The general public is encouraged to attend and observe. Individuals wishing to make a public comment at the meeting will need to register with the task force staff on-site the day of the meeting. For more information and to watch the meeting live via web cast visit <http://www.flgov.com/gulfrecoverytaskforce>
- BP's contractor, Waste Management, has begun placing hand washing stations at the public beach walkovers on Navarre Beach.

Health

- The Air Quality Index for Thursday, June 24, was "Good" for ozone and fine particulate concentrations in the panhandle. The air quality for Friday, June 25, is expected to be "Good" for Florida and Mississippi coastal areas. Ozone and particle data are consistent with typical values that occur during this time of year and no obvious influence due to the oil spill is evident.
- An online mental health survey for residents is being conducted to gather information on the effect of Deepwater Horizon incident on mental health at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill, under What's Hot. The survey will be available until the oil incident is resolved. For questions contact Daniel Hahn at (850) 983-4606 or danielh@santarosa.fl.gov.
- June 17 water quality testing performed by the University of West Florida showed no dissolved petroleum hydrocarbons at Pensacola Beach Pier and Navarre Beach Pier.
- The Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Protection are closely monitoring health and environmental impacts to Florida. Current advisories are posted at: www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm and www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill under "What's Hot."
- The tar balls that are found resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill pose no different health risk than tar balls that are commonly found on Florida beaches. The Department of Health and DEP are closely monitoring health and environmental impacts to Florida's beaches and will notice an advisory if conditions become unsafe.
 - For most people, an occasional brief contact with a small amount of tar balls, 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. If contact occurs, wash the area with soap and water, baby oil, or a widely used, safe cleaning compound such as the cleaning paste sold at auto parts stores. Avoid using solvents, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, or similar products on the skin. These products, when applied to skin, present a greater health hazard than the smeared tarball itself.

Santa Rosa County Actions

- The Santa Rosa County water reconnaissance teams continue to survey water and boom conditions daily, weather permitting, providing real time information on oil products including photos and GPS coordinates.
- County staff and reconnaissance teams continue to monitor beach conditions daily generally from day break until 6 p.m.

- On June 2, the EOC returned to 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 24 hours daily.
- Santa Rosa County and the State of Florida continue to make preparations to safeguard the state's shoreline.

Booms

- Oil containment boom (in feet) total in Florida: 567,261
 - Tier 1: 234,800 / Tier 2: 132,800
 - Tier 3: 199,661 (deployed by Florida contractors)
- The city of Gulf Breeze began closing booms, closing access to bayous this morning, June 24 at 8 a.m. They will remain closed until further notice.
- Approximately 367,600 feet of boom has been placed in Northwest Florida along the most sensitive areas and 176,300 feet has been staged.
- Santa Rosa County's approved additional boom locations and the location of the U.S. Coast Guard's Contingency booms are posted at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill, shown as a blue cross on the map (some locations have two crosses to show point to point locations).
- Booms located in Santa Rosa that have been left open for navigation to date, may begin to close this week. Boaters in these areas should monitor the local media or www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill for the latest on boom closures.
- Boaters in areas where skimming is being conducted, or where boom has been set, have been requested to maintain no-wake speeds.
- The FDEP Emergency Order that waives obtaining a permit for booms and protective measure is only for government and approved contractors. Businesses, condo owners or private citizens must still get a permit. All berms must be permitted.
- Residents are asked to stay clear of boom on beaches and in open water. Boom has been placed to protect environmentally sensitive and strategic areas and damaging or removing the boom puts those areas at risk. Crossing boom can cause serious damage to vessels.
- Spill responders are asking for the public's help in monitoring boom along the Gulf Coast. Boaters are requested to report sightings of broken, disconnected, or adrift boom; and encouraged to keep their distance from boom especially at night and in conditions of restricted visibility. Report damaged, vandalized, adrift, or stolen boom to 1-866-448-5816.

BP Claims

- A BP Community Outreach Center has been opened in Gulf Breeze at:
 - 1198 Gulf Breeze Pkwy., Ste. 6, Gulf Breeze FL 32561
 - Phone (850) 691-9116
- To serve the residents of Santa Rosa County, BP opened a claims office in Midway on Friday, May 14. The office is located at 5668 Gulf Breeze Parkway Unit B-9 in Gulf Breeze. Hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week, until further notice.
 - To help expedite a claims visit, call 1-800-440-0858 or start a claim at www.bp.com/claims before visiting the claims center, so adjusters at the claims office will have the information prior to your visit.
 - BP claims in Florida total 20,431 with approximately \$17,911,674.95 paid.
 - BP claims in Santa Rosa County total 2,090 with approximately \$2,008,746 paid.

BBB® warns businesses: Beware scammers exploiting BP oil spill

While this list is by no means exhaustive, your BBB warns of some common scams that may target businesses in the wake of the BP oil spill disaster:

- Loan scams: Economic Injury Disaster Loans are now available through the U.S. Small Business Administration and interest-free Bridge Loans are available for businesses in the state of Florida who can show documented or anticipated losses. In addition, some local banks and credit unions are offering low-interest disaster loans as well.
 - Beware of loan brokers who promise that you are "guaranteed" a loan if you pay an up-front fee. Advance fee loans are illegal in the state of Florida.

- Be leery of those who promise that bad credit will not stand in the way of a loan. Those who say “you deserve a loan” or “no hassle – guaranteed” are generally scammers.
- Be on the lookout for sound-alike names. Crooks may use a name similar to a well-known or respected organization and create slick websites to trick you into providing sensitive financial information or to steal your hard-earned cash.
- Walk away from a lender who asks you to wire money or pay an individual. Legitimate lenders don’t pressure you to wire funds or to pay a “courier” instead of the institution directly.
- Don’t be bullied by scammers who allege that you will be issued a “forfeiture letter” that would make your small business ineligible for any SBA funding for three years if the small business refused to use the firm’s services. SBA has issued warnings against these frauds in previous disasters.
- Claims scams: BP is evaluating claims for property damage, loss of income and bodily injury. ESIS, BP’s authorized claims administrator does not charge individuals or businesses any fee to process claims
 - Your BBB warns that scam artists may pose as authorized adjusters and request fees in exchange for filing or processing your claim.
 - Other scammers may position themselves as negotiators who will get claims expedited in exchange for a fee.
 - Still other anticipated scams involve individuals fraudulently pretending to be government officials demanding payment to process applications for government assistance
 - Your BBB warns against doing business with contractors who require payment-in-full up front. You could be out the money if they fail to perform the work or to finish the job to your satisfaction or to pass inspection.
- Contractor scams: As damages from the Deepwater Horizon spill become more apparent, businesses may need to hire a contractor for cleanup or repair work.
 - Walk away from contractors who want you to pull the permits for work to be done. They likely are not properly licensed and if the contractor fails to perform the work adequately, you could be responsible for the work necessary for the project to pass inspection.
 - Beware contractors who don’t offer a written contract or offer a contract with blank lines next to critical details.
 - Verify licensing and insurance for all contractors to ensure it is current.

Small Business Disaster & Bridge Loans

- Governor Charlie Crist activated Florida’s Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program, which will provide emergency, short-term loans to established small businesses in the designated counties. Applications for businesses are available. To receive an application or more information on the program, please contact the Governor’s Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development at (850) 487-2568, the Florida First Capital Finance Corporation (<http://www.ffcf.com>) at (850) 681-3601, or TEAM Santa Rosa at (850) 623-0174. More information has also been posted at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill under the Business Information heading.
 - Loan Applications
 - Issued: 450
 - Accepted: 115
 - Declined: 24
 - Approved: 13
 - Loan amount approved: \$778,900.00
- SBA representatives opened a disaster loan office at the Navarre Visitor Information Center located at 8543 Navarre Parkway (U.S. Hwy 98) in Navarre. Hours of operations will be 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday- Saturday until Saturday, June 26; when the days of operation will change to Monday-Friday. The office will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. More information can be found at: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/SERV_DISASTERASSISTANCEGOV.html

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 (866) 279-7983 or (877) 847-7470.

- 370 vessels have been deployed in Florida for the Vessels of Opportunity program.

Fishing

- On June 23, NOAA modified the commercial and recreational fishing closure in the oil-affected portions of the Gulf of Mexico. The closure measures 78,597 sq mi (203,564 sq km) and covers about 33 percent of the Gulf of Mexico exclusive economic zone. The majority of federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico are open to commercial and recreational fishing. For more information, visit http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm.
- **All Santa Rosa County waters are currently open to fishing.** Oil has not affected most of Florida waters and there are vast amounts open for fishing and other recreational activities and the FWC encourages everyone to fish where the waters are clear and to enjoy freshly harvested seafood products in these areas. Updated information regarding fishing advisories or harvest closures in Florida due to the BP oil spill will be posted online at <http://myfwc.com/OilSpill/index.htm>.
- The FWC is taking precautionary actions and has issued a partial harvesting closure of saltwater fish and marine vertebrates. This closure covers state waters from the Alabama state line east to the Pensacola Beach tower (approximately 23 miles east and out nine miles from the coastline. Interior bays and estuaries remain open to fishing. The closure does not affect oysters, clams and scallops. Catch and release is still allowed. For more information visit <http://myfwc.com/OilSpill/index.htm>.
- The FWC & NOAA Fisheries Service strongly advises fishermen not to fish in areas where oil or oil sheens (very thin layers of floating oil) are present, even if those areas are not currently closed to fishing. Details can be found at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

Important Phone Numbers

- **Florida Oil Spill Information Line is-** available from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. EDT daily for citizen's questions. - 1-888-337-3569
- **Fraud Hotline-** 1-866-966-7226.
- **Submit Alternative Response Technology, or to Register as a Consultant, Contractor, or Vender of Services & Products-** email horizonsupport@oegllc.com or call 1-281-366-5511
- **Report Oiled Wildlife-** 1-866-557-1401
- **Report Oiled Shoreline to State Warning Point-** 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335) or #DEP from a cell phone
- **To Report Oiled Shoreline to BP-** 877-389-8932
- **BP Toll-Free Claims line-** 1800-440-0858
- **BP's Community Information line-** 1-866-448-5816
- **Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner gas price-gauging hotline:** 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352).

General Safety Information

- www.santarosa.fl.gov
- 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.
- The Santa Rosa County Citizen Information Line at (850) 983-INFO or 4636 is open 24 hours daily.
- For general health information regarding the oil spill and exposure to oil spill products contact the Florida Poison Control information centers at 1-800-222-1222.

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