



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

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill #52
July 1, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Contact: Joy Tsubooka
Public Information Officer
(850) 983-5254, (850) 393-8304 Cell
joyt@santarosa.fl.gov

Deepwater Horizon Incident Update #52
(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.
- There are currently no swimming or fishing restrictions on Navarre Beach or anywhere in Santa Rosa County.
- Today, July 1, Navarre Beach has been impacted with pea-sized tar balls. Larger dollar-sized tar patties were reported west of crossover number 8. Tar balls continue to come in with the tide. Clean up is ongoing.
- Sheen surrounding a 50 by 50 yard tar ball patch was reported in the mouth of the Pensacola Pass. Tar balls intermixed with seaweed were also reported in the Pensacola Pass.
- Beachgoers may see signs posted in areas that are being or are scheduled to be cleaned, which also indicate what beach areas near public walkovers have no current oil impacts. The areas being cleaned are not closed, but beach goers may find other portions of the beach more enjoyable.
- Tar balls, tar patties and sheen have been reported in Northwest Florida and impacts are expected to continue within the next 72 hours.
- NOAA trajectories continue to predict oil impacts across the western Florida Panhandle through Saturday as far east as the Choctawhatchee Bay.
- Weather conditions continued to be unfavorable for recovery operations today, July 1.
- There are 60 cleanup workers scheduled to be working on Navarre Beach tonight.
- Cleanup crews from Mobile unified Command are cleaning private beaches and marshes. To arrange for cleanup, property owners should call 1-800-448-5816. The cleaning of other private property (such as oil tracked onto boardwalks, into homes, etc.) should be arranged by property owners. Those property owners should then file a claim for reimbursement of their expenses by calling 1-800-440-0858 or by visiting www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com.
- The IRS has announced new efforts to help affected taxpayers, including a special Gulf Coast Assistance Day on July 17. Learn more at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill, under the "Claims Information" heading.
- 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.
- There are **1,138** Qualified Community Responders and **3,971** beach clean up personnel actively working the cleanup effort in the Florida Panhandle.
- **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>.
- BP reports that as of June 29, there are 496 trained Santa Rosa County Qualified Community Responders. Learn more about qualified community responders at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill, under the "Fact Sheets and Q & A" heading.
- 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.
- Florida currently has five state-leased skimmers operating in Northwest Florida. The skimmers are working at the passes in Escambia, Okaloosa, Bay, Gulf and Franklin counties to protect sensitive inland water bodies.
- 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.
- Pensacola Pass as well as Perdido Pass will continue to be closed with the tide to reduce the amount of oil from entering inland waters. These waterways are manned to allow access to necessary vessel traffic during low tide.

Booms

- Santa Rosa County and the City of Gulf Breeze tentatively plan to re-open boom beginning early afternoon tomorrow, July 2. The boom will remain open until further notice unless there is an imminent threat of oil product verified by state or local surveillance. In this case, the boom could be closed without prior notice and boaters can call 850-602-0242 for emergency boom openings.
- The following boom is tentatively planned to re-open tomorrow, July 2:
 - Santa Rosa County:
 - Villa Venyce
 - Santa Rosa Shores - all three canals connecting to the sound
 - Soundside Drive - the three natural bayous, from west to east they are Brickyard Bayou, Sabine Bayou (also known as Duck Bayou) , and Chinquapin Bayou
 - Polynesian Isle
 - City of Gulf Breeze:
 - Woodland Bayou
 - Gilmore Bayou
 - Hoffman Bayou
 - Zamarra Canal
- Boaters are asked to stay clear of boom on beaches and in open water. Boom has been placed in order to protect environmentally sensitive and strategic areas. Damaging or removing the boom puts those areas at risk. Crossing boom can cause serious damage to vessels.
- Boaters in areas where skimming is being conducted, or where boom has been set, have been requested to maintain no-wake speeds.
- Oil containment boom (in feet) total: 656,661 deployed in Florida
 - Tier 1: 255,900 / Tier 2: 133,600
 - Tier 3: 267,161 (deployed by Florida contractors)
- 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).
- ***Florida Department of Environmental Protection does not allow the installation of hay bales, temporary sandbags or other similar materials to prevent oil contamination along shorelines of sandy beaches, as they can complicate cleanup efforts and could cause serious long-term damage.***
- 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.

- 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.

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.
- A beach clean up contingency plan for Navarre Beach was submitted to the Florida Emergency Operations Center on June 29.
- County staff and reconnaissance teams continue to monitor beach conditions daily generally from day break until 6 p.m., weather permitting.
- Staff continue to monitor cleanup and skimming operations performed by crews under the direction of unified command.
- Navarre Beach video updates are now available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill. The short clips show morning beach conditions including current weather, beach warning flag and any oil impacts as seen at the time of filming. Videos will be updated Monday through Friday (except for holidays), generally by noon.
- 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.

Fishing

- On June 28, NOAA modified the commercial and recreational fishing closure in the oil-affected portions of the Gulf of Mexico. The closure now measures 80,228 sq miles and covers approximately 33 percent of the Gulf of Mexico. 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>.
- **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/>

Volunteer Information

- There are reports of companies attempting to scam individuals who want to help with beach clean up efforts involving the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Legitimate beach cleaning contractors provide all required training free of charge. Individuals approached by anyone offering employment only after payment, are encouraged to contact law enforcement immediately.
- The complex nature of oil cleanup, coupled with health and safety concerns, limits the role of volunteers. Our area is not only being affected environmentally, but also by the loss of jobs connected to the tourism and fishing industries, leaving residents impacted or displaced economically and emotionally. Human service organizations, including nonprofits and faith based organizations, will need greater volunteer support in order to provide service to our impacted residents.
- To learn more about volunteer opportunities in our area, please contact the Santa Rosa County Volunteer Reception Center operated through Help Thy Neighbors at (850) 983-5223.

- Citizens are also asked to help spread the word that our beaches are open and encourage friends and family to visit our area to help minimize the economic impacts by visiting our restaurants, attractions, parks, hotels and condominiums.

Health

- June 28 water quality testing performed by the University of West Florida showed no detection of crude petroleum at Navarre Beach Pier.
- The Air Quality Index for today, June 30, was “Good” for ozone and fine particulate concentrations in the panhandle. 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.
- 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.

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 23,783 with approximately \$20,740,155.38 paid.
 - BP claims in Santa Rosa County total 2,426 with approximately \$2,188,799 paid.

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.fffc.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: 500
 - Accepted: 128
 - Declined: 40
 - Approved: 17
 - Loan amount approved: \$1,340,900.00
- 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 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.
- 114 vessels have been deployed in Florida for the Vessels of Opportunity program.

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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