



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

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill #10
May 10, 2010
4:00 p.m.

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

Deepwater Horizon Incident Update #10

Situation Update

- Winds/currents continue to keep the plume away from the Florida coast; affects are not expected for at least the next 72 hours.
- According to the NOAA oil plume model, the oil spill is 100 miles southwest of Pensacola, 179 miles from Port St. Joe, and 340 miles from St. Petersburg.
- Those near Florida's Gulf Coast may detect an odor because of the oil spill. Some people are more sensitive to these odors and may experience nasal irritation and feelings of nausea. In combination with seasonal allergies, such as sensitivity to pollen or pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, some people may experience more severe symptoms.
 - Individuals experiencing symptoms that are aggravated by the odors from the oil spill should consider:
 - Staying indoors, in air conditioning, and avoiding strenuous outdoor activity.
 - If symptoms do not improve, contact a primary care physician or other health care provider for medical advice.
 - Individuals who have pre-existing medical conditions, such as asthma or other respiratory illness should contact their health care provider if feeling symptomatic.
- At this time, there are no indications of any health risks to Floridians due to the Deepwater Horizon incident. 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.
- Statewide air quality monitoring is ongoing in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Individuals concerned about air quality issues can view an up-to-date map with pollutant concentrations at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill or www.airnow.gov, or they can report suspected changes in air quality at <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>.
- Santa Rosa County beaches are open.

Booming Stats

- 145,000 feet total deployment in Florida, 22,500 feet deployed on Sunday, May 9.
- Pensacola staging area: 13,400 feet staged/ 40,000 feet ordered
- Panama City staging area: 5,600 feet staged/ 10,000 feet ordered
- In accordance with established plans, protective booming is now being deployed in the coastal areas of Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties. Maintenance on booms already deployed is also being conducted.
- There are 538 BP and contract personnel working on the effort in Florida.
- Maps of the U.S. Coast Guard's booming strategy, including overall locations and a priority listing, are available online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill.

Proposed Booming Strategy

- Unified command, DEP and FDEM have approved the placement of a boom at the mouth of the East River. The boom will be placed by crews under the director of unified command.
- On May 7, the booming of the bridges strategy proposed by Santa Rosa County was denied. A new protection plan, which much more aggressively approaches the managing of the spill at the Pensacola Pass

and the basin immediately adjacent to NAS Pensacola, was proposed by DEP and FDEM in conjunction with Santa Rosa County.

- Within 72 hours of expected impact, this plan would place three additional directional booms inland of the pass, but within the NAS basin to capture and direct any oil into that basin. This would be coupled with pre-positioned skimmers that would aggressively collect any oil collected by the booming.
- Santa Rosa County officials believe that this aggressive approach at the point of entry would provide much better protection for Gulf Breeze and the entire bay system.
- This plan has been approved by unified command.

BP Training for Volunteers, Contractors & Paraprofessionals

- A schedule and description of all training available for volunteers, contractors and paraprofessionals is available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill.
- Please note:
 - All oil-contaminated materials will only be handled by trained, paid workers and not by volunteers.
 - Only training module 1 would be applicable for volunteers.
 - The BP training modules 2, 3 & 4 are of use primarily to individuals interested in employment and not volunteers.
 - Volunteers should support the oil cleanup effort through appropriate activities such as Coast Watch, pre-landfall beach cleanups, fundraising, and meeting other needs of responding organizations.

State of Florida's Guidance for Protecting Florida's Shoreline from Oil Spill Impacts for Homeowners

While the state appreciates the concern expressed by Floridians and the ingenuity of those seeking alternative measures to help protect the state's shoreline, the following tips are offered to ensure that these measures are helpful and not harmful to Florida's coasts, wildlife and water resources:

- Homeowners may be able to help prevent oil from reaching private property or damaging sensitive vegetation by utilizing absorbent booms.
- Booming and alternative absorption measures should be coordinated through the county and state Emergency Operation Centers since incorrect boom placement in navigable waterways can create a serious hazard.
- Coordination with state and local entities is important to ensure that booming or alternative measures being used do not impede navigation and are not more harmful to the natural environment in the long-run.
- If a boom is placed by a private citizen, that individual assumes responsibility for the boom, including the chance it could dislodge into the water or be harmful to wildlife.
- Booms placed by private citizens that become impacted by oil are the responsibility of that individual and require special authorization for removal and proper disposal.
- Alternative absorption methods, such as placing hay bales, homemade hair booms, sandbags or other technology along the shoreline, are not advisable as the overall debris from disposal of such methods would increase and could cause serious long-term damage.
- Oil is a hazardous material and should be handled by highly trained professionals only.
- Volunteers should not attempt to clean impacted beaches themselves or attempt to rescue oiled wildlife on their own. Touching oil is a health risk and disposing of it improperly could cause additional environmental damage.
- Authorized protective measures should be conducted in a manner that provides protection to, and does not disturb, native vegetation, species and their habitat.
- Taking, killing, harming or capturing any species, nests or eggs listed as an endangered species is not permitted.
- Individuals, counties and other entities seeking more information on types of protective measures can also contact BP's community information line at 1-866-448-5816.
- For more information on Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon or follow www.Twitter.com/FLDEPalert.

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 907-301-8878.
- The next local Vessel of Opportunity orientation will be Tuesday, May 11 at 5 p.m.-9 p.m., at the Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front, 12 Via de Luna Drive.
- Submit your vessel as a vessel of opportunity skimming system: (281) 366-5511

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Business Survey

- The Florida State Emergency Response Team is surveying Florida businesses regarding the oil spill. This survey is not affiliated with any particular business, and is not a claim for any loss experienced. The information provided is critical to decisions that will be made to assist businesses affected by this event.
- The survey can be found at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LJL23ZJ>

Coast Watchers/Volunteer Registration

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service is encouraging Floridians and visitors to watch for oiled wildlife, vegetation, and beaches by becoming a Coast Watch volunteer.

- The Coast Watchers will assist BP, the state of Florida and partnering organizations in identifying beaches that need attention.
- Coast Watchers will work within the coastal communities where they live or visit and commit to do the following:
 - Report injured or oiled animals to the Wildlife Distress Hotline: 1-866-557-1401.
 - Report oiled shoreline to: 1-866-448-5816.
 - Report a change in Air Quality to: <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>.
- For information on scheduled beach cleanups and other volunteer opportunities, visit www.VolunteerFlorida.org.
- To become a part of the Santa Rosa County volunteer database 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.

Actions Taken By Santa Rosa County

- The County has retained a consulting team to evaluate shoreline protection and shoreline restoration methodologies. These systems include technologies ranging from containment booms, vacuum systems, and various forms of absorbents.
- Established a process for reviewing protection requests.
- Emergency management staff has identified long and short term objectives, to include but not limited to:
 - Continue coordinating training needed for workers and volunteers to participate in clean-up & coordinate training opportunities.
 - Update priority list for boom requests to unified command.
 - Request BP to establish a claims/information office in Navarre, which was denied.
 - Follow up on air, water and sediment quality baseline tests.
 - 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
- Santa Rosa County is working with professional animal service organizations to coordinate response activities for animals affected by any oil on our coast.
- A local state of emergency was declared at 3 p.m., Friday, April 30, allowing the county to implement proactive measures as needed. On May 7, the board of county commissioners extended this order through May 14. Further extensions can be declared 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.

Fishing

- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has issued an executive order to temporarily suspend a restriction on the use of purse seines for the commercial harvest of baitfish in inshore waters of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The FWC is taking this action to help relieve possible economic hardships on the commercial fishing industry that may occur from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
- NOAA Fisheries Service modified the boundaries of the closed fishing area to better reflect the current extent of the oil pollution. All commercial and recreational fishing including catch and release is prohibited in the closed area.
 - The closure will be in effect for 10 days, from May 7, 2010 through May 17, 2010, 12:01 a.m., local time, unless conditions allow NOAA Fisheries Service to terminate it sooner.
 - This action temporarily closes the area bound by the following coordinates to all fishing: from the point where 29°50' N. lat. intersects with the 3 nautical mile Louisiana state boundary; proceeding easterly to the point 29°50' N. lat. and 87°28' W. long.; thence, southeasterly to the point 29°20' N. lat. and 86°55' W. long.; thence, southwesterly to the point 28°18' N. lat. and 87°44' W. long.; thence, northwesterly to the point 28°30' N. lat. and 89° W. long.; thence, northwesterly to the point where 28°52' N. lat. intersects with the 3 nautical mile Louisiana state boundary; thence along the seaward limit of Louisiana's waters.
- Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call 1-800-440-0858.

BP Claims

- All claimants will be directed to a hotline (1-800-440-0858) that is manned by the catastrophic loss division of ESIS specializing in oil spill claims.
- Payments will be made to address immediate issues associated with property damage or loss of income due to the oil spill.
- BP believes that it is appropriate to provide interim payments to claimants who are not receiving ordinary income while the cleanup is underway.
- Within 48 hours of receiving supporting documentation (e.g. tax return) the claim will be evaluated and the claimant will be notified of an advance payment for the claim.
- The equivalent of 1 month's income will be paid and these payments will continue until they are able to return to work or their overall claim is resolved.
- BP claims can be handled via phone or in person. Bills will be paid or reimbursed.
- If a claim is rejected the person will be notified in writing of non-payment.
- Claims are currently being paid.
- A link to information on some of the types of claims available and who can submit each claim is available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill or directly at www.uscg.mil/npfc/Claims/default.asp#types_of_claims.

Department of Financial Services

- Florida CFO Alex Sink today announced that her Department of Financial Services' toll-free Consumer Help Line, at 1-877-My-FL-CFO (1-877-693-5236), is prepared to assist business owners impacted by the growing oil spill in the Gulf. Specialists are available from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and information is also available at www.MyFloridaCFO.com.
- Insurance specialists on the Helpline can answer questions about the claim filing process as it becomes available, but **claims for damage or lost income should be filed with British Petroleum (BP) at 1-800-440-0858.**

Community Meetings

- 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.

Fraud

To report possible causes of fraud, call the Attorney General's Office fraud hotline at 1-866-966-7226.

Alternative Response Technology

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

Florida Emergency Information Line

- The Florida Emergency Information Line is available as a link to informational resources regarding the Deepwater Horizon Response: (800) 342-3557.

Mobile Area Contingency Plan

To view the Coast Guard Sector Mobile Area Contingency Plan, visit

<http://ocean.floridamarine.org/ACP/MOBACP/StartHere.html>

Health-Related Concerns

- Poison control centers in the gulf region are available to take any and all health-related calls connected to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. If you or a loved one is worried about health issues related to the Gulf spill, please call your local poison control center at (800) 222-1222.
- Individuals with an air quality question or concern should contact the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

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.

General Safety Information

- www.santarosa.fl.gov
- Citizens can signup 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.

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.

###