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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill #13  
May 13, 2010  
3:00 p.m.

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### *Deepwater Horizon Incident Update #13*

#### **Situation Update**

- Winds/currents are expected to continue to keep the plume away from the Florida coast for at least the next 72 hours.
- Santa Rosa County and the State of Florida continue to make preparations to safeguard the state's shoreline.
- According to the NOAA oil plume model, the oil spill is 92 miles southwest of Pensacola, 190 miles from Port St. Joe, and 365 miles from St. Petersburg.
- Should any impacts to our coastline occur, these could potentially include tar balls – fragments or lumps of oil weathered into a solid consistency – oil sheen or tar mats – sheets of oil that are thicker than a sheen. Should individuals observe any evidence of oil, they should leave the area and report the incident to 1-866-448-5816.
- A BP claims office in Santa Rosa County is expected to open by Saturday, May 15. Contact information will be announced as soon as it is available.
- 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 maps at: [www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill)
- Santa Rosa County beaches are open. Two links to live Web cams are now available at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill).

#### **Booming Stats**

- Approximately 171,600 feet of boom has been placed out of the Pensacola and Panama City staging areas in support of Unified Command.
- Florida staging areas have 78,000 feet staged and 170,000 feet ordered.
- 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](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill).

#### **Actions Taken By Santa Rosa County**

- Submitted a 30-day cost projection of county expenses to FDEM.
- Funding agreements between the state and Santa Rosa County is being finalized.
- A representative from WRS Infrastructure and Environment, Inc., a contractor for FDEM was assigned to Santa Rosa County to evaluate our county's protection efforts and provide Santa Rosa with a written tactical and operational protection plan for our area including booming, skimming and monitoring of the approved booming locations.
- Established a process for reviewing protection requests.
- Emergency management staff has identified long and short term objectives, to include but not limited to:
  - Monitor ongoing protection measures and identify additional measures that may be needed.
  - Monitor training courses scheduled.
  - Identify debris management plan.

- 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.

### **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.

### **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 following the coordinates:
  - From the point where 30°01' N. lat. intersects with the 3 nautical mile Louisiana state boundary; proceeding southeasterly to the point 29°50' N. lat. and 88°14' W. long.; thence, easterly to the point 29°50' N. lat. and 87°28' W. long.; thence, southeasterly to the point 29°27' N. lat. and 86°31' W. long.; thence southwesterly to the point 27°56' N. lat. and 87°53' W. long.; thence, westerly to the point 27°56' N. lat. and 88°23' W. long.; thence, northwesterly to the point 28°33' N. lat. and 89°00' W. long.; thence, northwesterly to the point 28°39' N. lat. and 90°25' W. long.; thence northwesterly to the point 29°07' N. lat. and 91°35' W. long.; thence northerly to the point where 91°35' W. long. intersects with the 3 nautical mile Louisiana state boundary; thence along the seaward limit of Louisiana's waters.

- Modeling and mapping the actual and projected spill area is not an exact science. 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/>
- Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call 1-800-440-0858.

### **Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Business Survey #2**

- Local businesses are strongly encouraged to take the Florida State Emergency Response Team's Business Impact survey to help assess the economic effects of the Deepwater Horizon Event to our area and the state. The information provided is critical to decisions that will be made to assist businesses impacted by this event.
- The survey can be found at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill) or <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/37NF5BL>

### **BP Training**

- An updated schedule and description of all training is available at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill](http://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 (see next page), pre-landfall beach cleanups, fundraising, and meeting other needs of responding organizations.

### **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/>.
- Citizens wanting to become a Coast Watcher do not need special training or registration; however they should be conscious of the coastal environment in their community. Coast Watchers are not permitted to enter off-limit areas to obtain observations and must not make contact with oiled wildlife, vegetation, and beaches. If a Coast Watcher observes contaminated wildlife, vegetation or shoreline it should be reported immediately to the number above.
- For information on scheduled beach cleanups and other volunteer opportunities, visit [www.VolunteerFlorida.org](http://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.

### **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.
- 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. Oil spill odors may cause some people in combination with seasonal allergies, such as sensitivity to pollen or pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, to 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.
- Consider the following tips for avoiding negative health impacts from an oiled shoreline:
  - Avoid entering areas where oil can be seen or smelled.
  - 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 traveling through the area by boat, take precautions when hoisting the boat anchor. If oil makes contact with skin, wash it off with soap and water.
  - Do not fish in oil-contaminated waters.
  - Do not harvest or eat dead fish, fish with oily residue or fish that have a petroleum odor.
  - Avoid boating in oil slicks or sheens.
  - Young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems and individuals with underlying respiratory conditions should avoid the oil-contaminated area.
  - Prevent pets from entering oil-contaminated areas.
- To learn more about the potential health impacts and first aid measures regarding the Deepwater horizon oil spill download the frequently asked questions at:  
[http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon.files/faq\\_doh\\_051010.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon.files/faq_doh_051010.pdf)

### **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.
- 98 out of 250 contracts have been activated for the Vessels of Opportunity program in Florida.
- Submit your vessel as a vessel of opportunity skimming system: (281) 366-5511

### **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](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill) or directly at [www.uscg.mil/npfc/Claims/default.asp#types\\_of\\_claims](http://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](http://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.

**Mobile Area Contingency Plan**

- To view the Coast Guard Sector Mobile Area Contingency Plan, visit <http://ocean.floridamarine.org/ACP/MOBACP/StartHere.html>

**Florida Oil Spill Information Line**

- The Florida Emergency Information Line (FEIL) has been closed and the Florida Oil Spill Information Line (FOSIL) opened, which will be available from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. EDT daily at (888) 337-3569. Residents and visitors may also call this line for updates on the state's response activities, information on volunteer opportunities, protective tips for homeowners and business and safety and health tips.

**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](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.

**General Safety Information**

- [www.santarosa.fl.gov](http://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](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.

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