



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

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill #44
June 23, 2010
4:45 p.m.

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

Deepwater Horizon Incident Update #44
(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.
- Today, June 23, there were no reports of tar balls; however, there was one report of an oiled plastic bottle.
- Today, June grass, which is a feathery-like algae, was 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.")
- Multiple patches of oil sheen, tar balls, tar mousse and tar mats were spotted near and inside the Pensacola Pass.
- Skimmers are actively skimming in our area 24-hours a day, as weather permits.
- Today, June 23, dime to five inch-sized tar balls and tar patties continued to be found in widely scattered areas of northwest Florida.
- 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.
- According to NOAA projections, additional impacts are expected throughout northwest Florida within the next 72 hours due to onshore winds.
- According to the NOAA oil plume model, the oil plume is five miles from Pensacola.
- There were 25,000 pounds of oil product reported collected last night from the Florida State line to Bay County.
- On June 22, there were no reported tar balls on Navarre Beach; however, an oiled beach ball was reported.
- There are currently three turtle nests on Navarre Beach including a rare Kemps Ridley nest. These nests usually take approximately 60 days to hatch and are surrounded by proper signage. These must not be disturbed.
- A tropical wave over the central Caribbean Sea has a moderate (30 percent) chance of becoming a tropical cyclone in the next 48 hours.
- A new website, created by BP, lists vessel decontamination locations within the U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Sector for oiled boats located at <http://bpdecon.com> (corrected link).
- ***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.***
- 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>.

- There are 694 Qualified Community Responders and 1,937 beach clean up 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.

Health

- 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: 557,261
 - Tier 1: 221,700 / Tier 2: 132,800
 - Tier 3: 202,761 (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).
- 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

- On June 19, BP announced that it has paid \$104 million to residents along the Gulf Coast for claims as a result of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. BP has issued more than 31,000 checks in the past seven weeks. BP has received about 64,000 claims to date and that a 1,000 member claims team is working constantly to receive and process claims. The average time for filing a claim to checks being issued is four days for individuals and seven days for more complex business claims that have provided supporting documentation.
- 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
- BP Claims for Deepwater Horizon can be
- 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 18,694 with approximately \$16,880,359.96 paid.
 - BP claims in Santa Rosa County total 1,760 with approximately \$1,450,688 paid.

Small Business Disaster & Bridge Loans

- On June 7, 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 will be available Monday, June 14, 2010. 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, or the Florida First Capital Finance Corporation (<http://www.ffcfc.com>) at (850) 681-3601.
 - Loan Applications
 - Issued: 416
 - Accepted: 107
 - Declined: 20
 - Approved: 10
 - Loan amount approved: \$715,000.00
- SBA representatives opened a disaster loan office on Tuesday, May 18 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 further notice. 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.
- 397 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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