



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
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Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

DEEPWATER HORIZON STATEMENT THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2010 6:00 p.m.

Governor Charlie Crist today issued Executive Order 10-99 declaring a state of emergency for Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay and Gulf Counties and activating the Florida National Guard. DEP continues to be Florida's lead agency in preparing for and responding to any potential impacts to Florida's shoreline. To support the Department in this role, and in response to the Governor's Executive Order, the State Emergency Operation Center has activated to a Level 2 (Partial).

DEP currently has four staff members in Mobile where they are working with the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, BP, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the impacted states. We have been assured that all available resources are being used in an attempt to shut off the oil discharge currently releasing an estimated 5,000 barrels of oil into the Gulf each day. The latest NOAA oil-spill projections do not indicate oil reaching Florida's shores over the weekend, assuming the rate of oil release is steady and the weather remains as forecast.

DEP today launched a website dedicated to Florida's response efforts. To view that website, visit: www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon. Effective immediately, all communication related to this issue will be coordinated through the Department's website and the State Emergency Operation Center media office (ESF 14) at 850-921-0217.

For further information, contact the established Joint Information Center at (985) 902-5231 or (985) 902-5240. A website has also been established for updates at: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com>.