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MEDIA ADVISORY: SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2010

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FLORIDA DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE JUNE 27, 2010

TALLAHASSEE – Under the leadership of Governor Charlie Crist, the State Emergency Response Team and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are actively coordinating and responding to the Deepwater Horizon incident.

The following is a summary of state and BP response actions to date, as well as tips for residents and visitors to take precautions both pre and post-landfall.

Landfall Reports and Predictions:

- Tar balls, tar patties and sheen have been reported in Northwest Florida between Escambia and Walton Counties, with the heaviest impacts reported in Escambia County.
- If oil is sighted on Florida's coastline report it to the State Warning Point at 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335) or by dialing #DEP from most cell phones.
- Perdido Pass and Pensacola Pass are closed with the tide to reduce the amount of oil from entering inland waters. Boom is deployed across each Pass at flood tide (water coming in) and removed at ebb tide (water going out).
 - Boaters in areas where skimming is being conducted, or where boom has been set, have been requested to maintain no-wake speeds.
- These waterways are manned to allow access to necessary vessel traffic and are open for vessel traffic during low tide. [See NOAA tide predictions.](#)
- Existing winds and currents have minimized the potential for oil impacts to continue moving east. Impacts in the already affected areas in Northwest Florida will continue within the next 72 hours.
- The majority of impacts to Florida's shoreline will likely be highly weathered, in the form of tar balls, oil sheen, tar mats or mousse – a pudding-like oil/water mixture that could be brown, rust or orange in color.
- Observations by NOAA continue to indicate no significant amounts of oil moving toward the Loop Current. The Loop Current Ring, a circular current which was formerly part of the Loop Current provides no clear path for oil to enter the Florida Straits.
 - There have been no reports of Deepwater Horizon oil spill-related oil products reaching the shore beyond the Northwest Florida region. There is no indication that the rest of the state will have impacts from weathered oil products within the next 72 hours.

- Tropical Storm Alex has been downgraded to a tropical depression. The system is approximately 673 miles southwest of Key West, or approximately 720 miles south-southeast of the Deepwater Horizon well head site. Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph. A general west-northwest track across the Yucatan Peninsula and then toward the Texas/Mexico border is forecast. Hurricane hunter aircraft is investigating the system again this afternoon.

On Site Actions:

- Current projections estimate Deepwater Horizon's discharge at 35,000 to 60,000 barrels per day. [Learn more.](#)
- BP is continuing its efforts to contain the leak and capture a substantial amount of leaking oil from the use of the [Lower Marine Riser Package \(LMRP\) Cap Containment System.](#)
- On June 26, approximately 14,730 barrels of oil were collected, 8,020 barrels of oil were flared and 52.9 million cubic feet of natural gas were flared. BP is continuing efforts to drill two relief wells.

State Actions:

- The State Emergency Operations Center is activated at Level 1.
- Five state-leased skimmers continue to operate in Northwest Florida to protect sensitive inland water bodies. These skimmers are operating at the passes in Escambia, Okaloosa, Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties.
- DEP issued a Second Amended [Emergency Final Order](#) to accelerate preparedness and restoration in the counties under the Governor's state-of-emergency Executive Orders. View approved emergency permits [here.](#)
- Individuals, businesses and/or condominiums are not exempt from permitting requirements under the provisions of the Emergency Final Order. For more information on permits, visit the Coastal Construction Control Line Permitting site at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/ccclprog.htm>.
- DEP conducted water and sediment sampling to use as a baseline and is monitoring air quality data. Statewide air quality monitoring is conducted in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Learn more at <http://www.airnow.gov/> or <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>. In addition, real-time sampling data can be viewed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/air.htm>.
 - Air quality reports for June 26 revealed that air quality was considered good for ozone and fine particulate concentrations in Northwest Florida. "Good" means the air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk.

Boom Placement:

- Approximately 380,900 feet of boom has been placed in Northwest Florida along the most sensitive areas and 225,700 feet is staged. Additionally, counties in the region are moving forward with supplemental booming plans. As of June 26, 316,261 feet of supplemental boom has been deployed or staged by Florida contractors.
- Placement of boom is based on where the oil is threatening, as well as each region's area contingency plan.

Health Effects:

- On June 26, Escambia County Health Department, in coordination with Escambia County Emergency Management and local officials rescinded the health advisory for the beaches of Ft. Pickens and Johnson Beach. [Learn more](#). There are currently no health advisories in effect in the state of Florida.
- If residents or visitors see tar or oiled debris on the beach, **DO NOT PICK IT UP**. For most people, an occasional brief contact with a small amount of oil will not cause any harm, however it is not recommended. [Learn more](#).

Fisheries & Seafood:

- To report oiled wildlife, please call 1-866-557-1401. For the safety of the public as well as the safety of animals, rescues should only be conducted by trained responders. [Learn more](#).
- Approximately 67 percent of Gulf federal waters are available for fishing. Closed fishing in the remaining areas is a precautionary measure to ensure that seafood from the Gulf will remain safe for consumers. This federal closure does not apply to state waters. [Learn more](#).
- A portion of coastal state waters offshore of Escambia County is closed to the harvest of saltwater fish, crabs and shrimp. [Learn more](#).
- Visit <http://bpdecon.com> for a list of vessel decontamination locations for oiled boats within the U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Sector.

Learn More About Florida's Response:

- Visit www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com to learn more about Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon incident, sign up for daily updates, view tips for businesses and consumers, and much more.
- For a list of Unified Command, BP and Florida phone numbers, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm#numbers>.
- The Oil Spill Information Line is available at 1-888-337-3569 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. seven days a week. Additional phone numbers have also been established for persons with disabilities: (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (voice).

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