



CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

SECRETARY MICHAEL W. SOLE
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DAVID HALSTEAD
State Coordinating Officer

MEDIA ADVISORY: SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2010

CONTACT: PUBLIC INFORMATION (ESF 14): (850) 921-0217

FLORIDA DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE JULY 3, 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, with the heaviest impacts reported in Escambia County. View the latest reconnaissance reports [here](#).
- Impacts in the already affected areas in Northwest Florida will continue within the next 72 hours.
- Nearly 90 percent of Florida's coastline remains unimpacted.
- 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.
- Pensacola Pass as well as Perdido Pass will continue to be closed with the tide to reduce the amount of oil entering inland waters. These waterways are manned to allow access to necessary vessel traffic and are open for vessel traffic during low tide. [See NOAA tide predictions](#).
- Due to the amount of boat traffic on the Fourth of July, if oil is present in or near Little Sabine Pass, Escambia County will not be opening the boom for recreational vessels. If Little Sabine pass is clear of oil, the boom will be opened on the outgoing tide. This is an effort to protect Little Sabine from oil, mousse and tar balls.
- 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.

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](#). Get daily oil collection numbers [here](#).
- BP continues efforts to drill two relief wells.

State Actions:

- The State Emergency Operations Center is activated at Level 1.
- On July 2, The Florida Oil Spill Information Line activated Haitian Creole and Spanish call lines to serve as another resource providing Florida residents and visitors with up-to-date information. Call (877) 955-8707 for information in Haitian Creole and (877) 955-8773 for information in Spanish.
- On July 1, DEP hosted an innovative technology review event to evaluate various technologies that might offer additional capabilities to clean oil impacted beaches. [Learn more](#).
- On July 1, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) with federal partners announced the creation of an oiled bird recovery plan for rapid response to distressed birds. [Learn more](#).
- On July 1, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson announced the extension of the licensing period for the Apalachicola Bay Oyster Harvesting License. [Learn more](#).
- 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 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 July 2 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 408,600 feet of boom has been placed in Northwest Florida along the most sensitive areas and 200,800 feet is staged. Additionally, counties in the region are moving forward with supplemental booming plans. As of July 2, 316,261 feet of supplemental boom has been deployed or staged by Florida contractors.

Health Effects:

- On July 2, the Walton County Health Department rescinded the health advisory previously issued for beaches between the Lake Stallworth outfall to the western

boundary of Topsail State Park. An Oil Impact Notice has now been posted for all Walton County Gulf Beaches. For more information, contact the Walton County Health Department at (850) 892-8040 or www.doh.state.fl.us/chdwalton/. [Learn more](#)

- On July 1, the Escambia County Health Department extended the existing health advisory for beach waters in Escambia County to include the Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier east to the Santa Rosa County borders. All gulf beachside waters in Escambia County are now under a health advisory. [Learn more.](#)
- 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:

- On July 2, The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announced a plan to move sea turtle eggs that are within a week of hatching from the beaches in Northwest Florida to a facility on the central-east coast of Florida. [Learn More.](#)
- On June 28, NOAA expanded the closed fishing area in the Gulf of Mexico to include portions of the oil slick moving beyond the area's current northern boundary, off the Florida panhandle's federal-state waterline. This boundary was moved eastward to Cape San Blas. This federal closure does not apply to any state waters.
- This leaves more than 66 percent of Gulf federal waters available for fishing. [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.](#)
- 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.](#)
- 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).

###