



CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

SECRETARY MICHAEL W. SOLE
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DAVID HALSTEAD
State Coordinating Officer

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

FLORIDA DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE JUNE 20, 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:

- Dime to five inch-sized tar balls and tar patties continue to be found in northwest Florida.
- 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, Pensacola Pass and Destin Pass will be closed with the tide to reduce the amount of oil from entering inland waters. Boom will be 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 will be manned to allow access to necessary vessel traffic and are open for vessel traffic during low tide. [See NOAA tide predictions.](#)
- According to [NOAA](#) projections, additional impacts are expected throughout northwest Florida within the next 72 hours due to onshore winds.
- 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 and contains a small portion of oil slick in the form of light sheens, has detached again from the main Loop Current.
 - 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 has placed a [Lower Marine Riser Package \(LMRP\) Cap Containment System](#) in an attempt to contain the leak and capture a substantial amount of the leaking oil. On June 19, approximately 11,050 barrels of oil were collected, 9,990 barrels of oil were flared and 43.4 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.
- On June 18, Governor Crist announced the Gulf Oil Spill Economic Recovery Task Force will meet on Wednesday, June 30 in Pensacola. The public is invited to attend. [Learn more](#).
- On June 18, Governor Crist issued [Executive Order 10-132](#), extending the declaration of a State of Emergency for the 26 coastal counties that could see impacts.
- On June 18, 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. This includes the authorization of burning oil in Florida waters if necessary. Responders will carefully monitor weather, wind and water conditions before beginning any burning activities.
- On June 17, Governor Crist unveiled [Florida Gulf Recovery Jobs](#), a website that allows job seekers to locate and apply for positions created in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. [Learn more](#).
- 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/>.
 - Air quality reports for June 19 revealed that air quality was considered moderate for ozone and fine particulate matter in northwest Florida. “Moderate” means air quality is acceptable for most people.

Boom Placement:

- Approximately 303,100 feet of boom has been placed in northwest Florida along the most sensitive areas and 74,750 feet is staged. Additionally, counties in the region are moving forward with supplemental booming plans. As of June 19, 250,361 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:

- The Florida Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with DEP and VISIT FLORIDA has developed an online mapping resource that contains the most up-to-date health advisory information for Florida’s beach waters. Visitors are encouraged to visit www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm or www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/.

- On June 18, DOH issued guidelines for identifying and treating heat exhaustion and dehydration as volunteers and responders assist with pre-oil impact beach debris cleanup efforts. [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 do no harm, yet still it is not recommended. [Learn more.](#)
- For general health information questions regarding the oil-spill and exposure to oil spill products contact the Florida Poison Information Centers at **1-800-222-1222.**

Fisheries & Seafood:

- Today, June 20, all Florida residents and visitors are invited to fish statewide for saltwater species without a license. All other saltwater fishing rules continue to apply. [Learn more.](#)
- On June 16, NOAA expanded the closed fishing area to capture portions of the oil slick moving beyond the area's current northern boundary, off the northwest Florida federal-state waterline. This boundary was moved to Panama City Beach. This closure does not apply to any state waters. This leaves more than 66 percent of Gulf federal waters available for fishing. [Learn more.](#)
- An FWC [executive order](#) has been issued to temporarily close a portion of coastal state waters offshore of Escambia County to the harvest of saltwater fish, crabs and shrimp. [Learn more.](#)
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' [seafood website](#) provides up-to-date information on Florida's fisheries.
- The Florida Seafood Hotline, 1-800-357-4273, is updated daily at 2:00 p.m., and provides information on what state waters are open, Florida's seafood supply, pricing and what seafood is being harvested and available frozen.
- Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call 1-800-440-0858.
- To report oiled wildlife, please call 1-866-557-1401 and leave a message. Messages are checked hourly.
- For the safety of the public as well as the safety of animals, rescues should only be conducted by trained responders. [Learn more.](#)

Tourism:

- Through www.VISITFLORIDA.com/floridalive, vacationers are able to view web cams, real-time photos, live Twitter feeds and beach condition updates.
- VISIT FLORIDA has a blog which hosts daily media coverage highlighting oil spill and Florida stories posted at www.sunshinematters.org.
- The Florida State Parks website, <http://www.floridastateparks.org>, is updated daily and will list any impacts. Learn more by calling 1-850-245-2157.

Tips for Homeowners:

- While the state appreciates the concern expressed by Floridians and the ingenuity of those seeking alternative measures to help protect the state's shoreline, the following tips are offered to ensure that these measures are helpful and not harmful to Florida's coasts, wildlife and water resources: [Tips for homeowners.](#)

Tips for Businesses and Consumers:

- The Attorney General's fraud hotline is open to receive any reports of fraud or price gouging. The hotline is 1-866-966-7226.
- The Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner gas price-gouging hotline is also operational. The toll-free hotline number is 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352).
- Coastal businesses should make loss of earnings claims for damages incurred as a result of the oil spill. Learn more at <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/> or by calling 1-850-413-3089 or toll-free at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (1-877-693-5236).
- To discuss spill related damage with BP representatives, please call the BP Claims Reporting Line at 1-800-440-0858.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Individuals interested in volunteering can register at www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org.
- Volunteers will not be in direct contact with oil or oil-contaminated materials.
- The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service – Volunteer Florida is encouraging Floridians and visitors to stay current on the latest information on scheduled beach cleanups and other local volunteer opportunities. [Learn more.](#)

Learn More About Florida's Response:

- DEP launched a Twitter account, www.Twitter.com/FLDEPalert, dedicated to providing updates on Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.
- DEP in coordination with the state Emergency Operations Center established an email sign-up and a comprehensive website at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com>.
- 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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