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FLORIDA DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE JUNE 22, 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.](#)
- A new website, created by BP, lists vessel decontamination locations within the U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Sector for oiled boats: <http://bpdecon.com>.
- 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, has reattached to the main Loop Current after previously detaching itself.
 - 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 21, approximately 15,560 barrels of oil were collected, 10,270 barrels of oil were flared and 52.2 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.
- A total of 20 Unified Command skimmers are currently operating in Florida. The state continues to ask Unified Command for additional resources.
- Five state-leased skimmers will begin operating in Northwest Florida today to protect sensitive inland water bodies. These skimmers will be operating at the passes in Escambia, Okaloosa, Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties.
- 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 21 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 335,400 feet of boom has been placed in Northwest Florida along the most sensitive areas and 49,450 feet is staged. Additionally, counties in the region are moving forward with supplemental booming plans. As of June 21, 286,761 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:

- On June 21, NOAA expanded the closed federal fishing area to the west. This federal closure does not apply to state waters. Closing fishing in these areas is a precautionary measure to ensure that seafood from the Gulf will remain safe for consumers. This leaves approximately 64 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.](#)
- 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.
- Beach visitors are reminded that some state law enforcement officers and clean-up workers are using All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) to quickly gather information and

respond to reported coastal impacts from the Deepwater Horizon event. Beach visitors are encouraged to use caution when officials on ATVs approach the area and allow these vehicles the right of way.

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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