



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 24, 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:

- On June 23, mousse was discovered between the Pensacola Beach Pier and the ranger station at Fort Pickens gate, approximately three miles in length. Cleanup crews continue to be on site.
- Tar balls, tar patties and mousse continue to be found in Northwest Florida, with the heaviest impacts reported between Escambia and Walton Counties.
- 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>.
- A slight change in winds and currents has 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 is detached 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.](#)
- During the morning of June 23, the use of the [Lower Marine Riser Package \(LMRP\) Containment Cap System](#) was temporarily suspended when a discharge of liquids was observed from a diverter valve on the drill ship *Discoverer Enterprise*. As a precautionary measure, the LMRP Containment Cap System, which is attached to the *Discover Enterprise*, was removed to ensure the safety of operations and allow the unexpected release of liquids to be analyzed. The LMRP Containment Cap System was reinstalled later in the evening. The capture of oil and gas through the blowout preventer's choke line to the Q4000 vessel on the surface continues. [Learn more.](#)
- For the first 12 hours on June 23, approximately 5,500 barrels of oil were collected, 4,625 barrels of oil were flared and 19.7 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 have begun operating in Northwest Florida to protect sensitive inland water bodies. These skimmers are operating at the passes in Escambia, Okaloosa, Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties.
- On June 23, Governor Crist joined oceanography experts and the United States Coast Guard in Pensacola to assess Gulf recovery cleanup progress. [Learn more.](#)
- On June 22, Governor Crist sent a letter to Doug Suttles, Chief Operating Officer of Exploration and Production for BP America Inc., requesting the data needed to evaluate the claims process and measure the economic impact of the losses to all level of governments throughout Florida. [Learn more.](#)
- 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.](#)
- 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, contact the Coastal Construction Control Line Permitting site at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/ccclprog.htm>.
- BP has opened 11 claims offices in Florida, the most recent being opened in Naples. Visit the [BP Claims Page](#) to 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/>. In addition, real-time sampling data can be viewed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/air.htm>.

- Air quality reports for June 23 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 367,600 feet of boom has been placed in Northwest Florida along the most sensitive areas and 176,300 feet is staged. Additionally, counties in the region are moving forward with supplemental booming plans. As of June 23, 315,061 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 23, Escambia County Health Department, in coordination with Escambia County Emergency Management and local officials posted a health advisory for the area extending from Walkover 23 on Pensacola Beach to east of the Johnson Beach Gate of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. This includes Fort Pickens but excludes Portofino. [Learn more](#). Signage was also placed along Pensacola Beach advising patrons to avoid contact with the water (no wading, swimming or entering), oil or oily materials, or dead or dying wildlife. [Learn more](#).
- On June 23, Walton County Health Department, in coordination with Walton County Emergency Management and local officials posted a health advisory for the area extending from the Miramar Beach access point eastward to the east end of Top Sail State Park. [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](#).
- 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:

- 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](#).
- On June 23, NOAA opened 8,388 square miles of previously closed federal fishing area in the Gulf of Mexico, because the agency has not observed oil in the area. This federal closure does not apply to state waters. Closing fishing in the remaining areas is a precautionary measure to ensure that seafood from the Gulf will remain

safe for consumers. This leaves approximately 67 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.

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 Property Owners:

- 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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