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FLORIDA DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE JULY 15, 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.

On Site Actions:

- Current projections estimate Deepwater Horizon's discharge at 35,000 to 60,000 barrels per day. [Learn more.](#)
- The "capping stack," designed to capture greater quantities of oil, was installed on July 12. Test procedures for the new cap are ongoing. [Learn more.](#)
- BP continues efforts to drill two relief wells.

State Actions:

- The State Emergency Operations Center is activated at Level 1.
- Three Florida branch offices are fully operational in Northwest Florida.
- On July 14, Governor Crist sent a letter to Doug Suttles, Chief Operating Officer for Exploration & Production for BP America Inc, in response to BP's denial of Florida's request for additional tourism marketing and advertising funds for local counties affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. [Learn more.](#)
- On July 14, Commander Joe Boudrow announced plans to form a working group to improve the Vessel of Opportunity Program (VoO) in Florida, which employs boat owners and their crews to help in the response across the Gulf. The Commander announced the working group after hearing concerns at a community meeting with commercial fisherman and other community members in Apalachicola. [Learn more.](#)
- BP claimants should be aware of potential online or local claims scams. Report suspected claims fraud to 1-877-359-6281.
- DEP continues to conduct water sampling monitoring to establish baseline conditions throughout the state. Learn more about sampling and results at www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/water.htm.

DEP's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas is conducting water sampling under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process. [Learn more.](#)

- Real-time sampling data from statewide air quality monitoring can be viewed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/air.htm>. Air quality reports for July 14 revealed that air quality was considered good for ozone and moderate for fine particulate concentrations in Northwest Florida. "Good" means the air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk. "Moderate" means air quality is acceptable for most people.

Landfall Reports and Predictions:

- Tar balls, tar mats and light sheen continue to be reported in Northwest Florida. View the latest reconnaissance reports [here](#).
- Continued impacts will be possible in Northwest Florida over the next 72 hours.
- 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.
- Nearly 90 percent of Florida's more than [1,260 miles of 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.](#)
- 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 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.
- No significant tropical activity is expected in the next 48 hours.

Boom Placement:

- Approximately 466,100 feet of hard boom and 8,580 feet of sorbent boom have been placed in Northwest Florida along the most sensitive areas. Additionally, counties in the region are moving forward with supplemental booming plans. As of July 14, 316,261 feet of supplemental boom has been deployed or staged by Florida contractors.

Health Effects:

- Oil Impact Notices are posted for all Escambia County and Walton County Gulf beaches, as well as designated beaches in Okaloosa County. Signs may remain

in place until local authorities determine that beaches are no longer impacted by the oil spill. [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:

- The current federal fisheries closure in the Gulf of Mexico measures 83,927 square miles. This leaves approximately 65 percent of Gulf federal waters available for fishing. This federal closure does not apply to any 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.](#)
- 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, find a listing of Unified Command, BP and Florida phone numbers, and more.
- 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. Persons with disabilities can contact 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (voice).

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