



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA

Media Contact
866-920-MEMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2010

Mississippi Oil Spill Response Updates

BILOXI—The following are the latest updates and actions taken in Mississippi for the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico:

MS Department of Environmental Quality and MS Department of Marine Resources:

- Reports tar balls or other oil related materials on beaches in Biloxi, Gulfport and Pascagoula.
- Air observation of tar patties and mousse material in the Mississippi Sound north of the barrier islands in Harrison and Jackson counties.
- MDEQ, MDMR, and the Mississippi State Department of Health extended the existing beach advisory in Harrison County to the west from Market Street in Pass Christian to Azalea Avenue in Biloxi. This area had significant amounts tar mats and tar patties on the beach. The public is asked to stay out of the water if oil materials are visible.
- MDMR has expanded the closure of Mississippi marine waters to commercial and recreation fishing. For exact locations visit www.dmr.ms.gov.
- MDMR also strongly urges all crab fishermen with crab traps in the closed waters of the Mississippi Sound to temporarily remove their traps. This advisory is a result of concerns about interference with oil abatement activities being conducted in Mississippi waters.

BP:

- Reports 240 lbs. of tar balls and tar patties were collected on Mississippi beaches Tuesday.
- Reports 1,200 workers were dispatched along Mississippi beaches for clean-up during daylight hours today. An additional 100 workers will work overnight on clean-up.
- Reports a total of 8,730 claims and \$13,593,169.66 paid in Mississippi.

MS Department of Employment Security:

- All job opportunities have been placed on hold for recruitment from BP. Approximately 3,000 people have been hired since the incident. Applicants are encouraged to check the MDES website for clean-up job updates at www.mdes.ms.gov

MS Department of Mental Health:

- MDMH Executive Director Edwin LeGrand Mississippi sent an official letter to BP requesting a behavioral health impact mitigation fund of \$10 million to administer grants to public and private mental health providers in the areas impacted by the oil spill from July 1, 2010 to January 1, 2011.

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MS Commission for Volunteer Service:

- Coast Watch, a volunteer initiative focusing on surveying beaches and coastal habitats that may be impacted by the BP oil spill is still accepting registrations.
- Citizens wanting to become a Coast Watcher need to register online at www.volunteermississippi.org. Training will be offered on an ongoing basis and be provided to all individuals participating in volunteer activities.
- Residents, volunteers and nonprofit organizations are invited to call or visit, one of the Volunteer Response Centers between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday to seek assistance, request information about volunteering and advertise volunteering opportunities. The VRCs are at the following locations:

- **Hancock County**
Hancock County Resource Agency
Phone: 228-596-5546
Email: hancockvrc@gmail.com
454 Highway 90, Suite K
Waveland
- **Harrison County**
Phone: 228-596-5780
Email: harrisonvrc@gmail.com
Knight Nonprofit Center
11975 Seaway Road
Gulfport
- **Jackson County**
Phone: 228-382-7358
Email: jacksonvrc@gmail.com
Camp Victor
1515 Government Street
Ocean Springs

Important Phone numbers:

- Submit claims to BP: 800-440-0858.
- Report oiled wildlife: 866-557-1401.
- Report oiled shoreline/ vandalized, broken or damaged boom: 866-448-5816.
- Alternative technology, services or products/ vessels of opportunity: 866-279-7983.
- Report stranded dolphins or sea turtles: (888) 767-3657.
- Report dead fish, birds or animals: 228-523-4128.
- Wildlife rescue training: 866-647-2338.

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