



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA

THERE WILL BE NO RELEASE MONDAY MAY 31 IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.

*This release is the result of information sharing among lead responding agencies Mississippi Departments of Environmental Quality and Marine Resources, responding support agencies, BP and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency as the coordinating agency. This information will be updated three times a week until further notice.

Media Contact:
866-920-6362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2010

Mississippi Oil Spill Response Updates

BILOXI—The following are upcoming actions and a summary of Mississippi's and BP's responses to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico:

Upcoming actions:

MS Department of Environmental Quality:

- Continue Liaison activities in Mobile.
- Respond to support samples of opportunity to be processed locally in contract lab.
- Continue State Emergency Response Team assessments and respond to any oil related reports along the coast of Mississippi.
- Attend meeting with Jackson County officials to discuss response and cleanup plans.
- Continue to conduct SCAT beach assessments.
- Conduct air reconnaissance of boom placement and condition on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Assessment teams operate on Tuesday and Thursday.
- Respond to air observation and public complaints.
- SERTs to conduct boom checks along with beach observations.

MS Department of Marine Resources:

- Continue conducting SCAT beach assessments.
- Continue Liaison activities in Mobile.
- Observational flight to be conducted over Mississippi Sound and adjacent waters.
- Collect water samples between barrier islands, west of Cat Island and east of Petit Bois Island.

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British Petroleum:

- Top kill operations in process and could take 24 to 48 hours to complete.
- Three top hats on sea bed and a fourth is being manufactured.
- Dispersants deployed: 707,017 gallons surface and 169,836 gallons subsurface (876,853 total).
- Relief well operations ceased during top kill operation.
- Seven personnel became ill during cleanup operations resulting in Coast Guard recalling all 125 vessels assisting in operations.
- 101 miles of Louisiana Shoreline have been impacted by oil.

MS Military Department:

- 47th CST running water samples of opportunity with MDEQ Chemist support.
- UH-72 flying DEQ/DMR personnel.
- C-23 flight in support of elected, state and local officials.
- RC-26 flight conducting boom, sensitive environmental area and oil spill over flight.
- Planning C-23 flight for coastal city mayors on June 1.

Current public announcements:

- More than 3,146 Mississippians have filed claims with BP, and \$4,559,348 has been paid out.
- Reports still indicate that the main oil slick from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil leak is still approximately more than 35 miles south of Ship Island.
- The MDEQ and MDMR Resources are asking the public to AVOID handling any tar balls, and to please report tar ball locations and broken or disconnected boom by calling: (866) 448-5816.
- **Boom deployment:** Incident Command Post in Mobile, Ala. reports that 100 percent of the area contingency plan is complete with 362,000 feet of boom deployed to protect sensitive areas along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. MDEQ and MDMR are working with BP, the responsible party for the spill, to direct the placement of the boom.

Summary of actions completed:

MDEQ:

- MDEQ SCAT located several possible tar balls during the day's beach assessment. The majority of the suspected tar balls were on Petit Bois Island.
- Investigated possible tar balls/ oil related materials on Harrison and Jackson County beaches.
- Attended town hall meeting in Hancock County.
- Sections of boom reported loose on Ship Island and Jackson County beaches. Reported to Incident Command in Mobile.

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MDMR:

- Conducted Liaison operations with Incident Command.
- Conducted shrimp tissue samples at nine stations in the Mississippi Sound to be tested for oil related organics.

MS Military Department:

- Attended town hall meeting in Hancock County.

BP:

- Thirteen in situ burns conducted in last 24 hours and will continue as weather permits.
- Individuals interested in specialty volunteer training should email horizonresponse@pecpremier.com to request training information from British Petroleum.
- BP has opened three Mississippi community outreach offices, and three Mississippi claims offices. The locations and hours are as follows:

Mississippi Community Outreach Centers:

Hancock County
454 Hwy. 90, Suite K
Waveland, MS 39576
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Harrison County
1319 24th Ave
Gulfport, MS 39531
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Jackson County
710 Delmas Ave.
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Mississippi Claims Office:

Hancock County
1171 Hwy. 90
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Harrison County
920 Cedar Lake Road, Suite K
Biloxi, MS 39532

Jackson County
5912 Old Mobile Hwy
Pascagoula, MS 39581

- BP continues to monitor air and water samples. To date, 3,807 vessel owners, captains and crew have participated in the training across Mississippi. About 1,146 vessel owners in Mississippi have submitted charter agreements and about 1,251 have been trained.
- BP has offered 10 Vessels of Opportunity training courses. The current activities of the vessels of opportunity are boom surveillance, debris removal and sorbent recovery. BP will continue to provide all training for all captains and deck hands in the program.
- Several, four hour shoreline cleanup trainings have taken place, and have trained 1,600 people.

Small Business Administration:

- SBA has established a Business Recovery Center in Harrison County at the following location:

Harrison County
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Gulfport Branch Office
Hancock Bank Plaza
2510 14th Street, Suite 103
Gulfport, MS 39501

- Business Recovery Centers are also open in George, Hancock, Jackson and Stone counties.
- SBA PIO staff is conducting town hall meetings and providing information to the local media in the area. The staff at the BRCs is also involved in outreach activities.
- Businesses may obtain loan information and application forms by calling SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or (800) 877-8339 for the hearing impaired, e-mailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance, or visiting a local Business Recovery Center.

MS State Department of Health:

- MSDH continues health surveillance in the three coastal counties for health conditions that may be oil spill related, and is continuing to provide oil spill health information on their website, www.healthmys.com.

MS Department of Mental Health:

- Community Health Centers on the coast are still prepared to deal with any potential mental health response, but neither of the centers has reported any requests for mental health assistance.

MS Emergency Management Agency:

- MEMA continues to staff Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties with planning, operations and public information personnel.

MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks:

- MDWFP has finished the HAZWOPER training and now has 80 officers certified. MDWFP will continue working with MDMR in preparation for any oil impact.

MS Board of Animal Health:

- MBAH is continuing to identify MS Animal Response Team (MART) members qualified and eligible to work as paraprofessionals. These paraprofessionals will work within the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to support Tri-State Bird Rescue's response to rehabilitate oiled wildlife as requested.
- Training requirements and opportunities have been identified and are being communicated to active MART members. Focus remains on working with Federal, State, and local personnel to support activities that safely and humanely retrieve, transport, and rehabilitate oiled wildlife.
- The MBAH is communicating with animal/agriculture/natural resource agencies within the state and in the region to maintain consistent and accurate messages.

Civil Air Patrol:

- On Thursday, May 26 MSWG Coastal Squadron aircraft launched a flight from Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport to search for oil and pollutants washing up on barrier island shores. No oil was observed on any barrier islands from the MS/LA border to the MS/AL border.

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MS Department of Employment Security:

- The WIN Job Centers and the MDES call centers are working with employers to post job orders and refer job applicants to jobs related to the oil spill. MDES is accepting applications from MS residents seeking paid oil response work at WIN Job Centers as well as online at www.mdes.ms.gov.
- Currently MDES has 10 employers listing oil spill related jobs, 6,190 job openings with over 3,000 individuals having been referred to employers for this work.

MS Development Authority:

- All tourism-related businesses on the Mississippi Gulf Coast remain open for business.

MS Commission for Volunteer Service:

- The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Volunteer Response plan has been submitted to the governor for approval.
- The MS Audubon Society, in coordination with MCVS and BP will deploy the first round of Coast Watch teams across Jackson, Hancock, and Harrison Counties next week. All team assignments and locations will be cleared through local emergency management agency directors. Coast Watch teams will observe and record area wildlife and coastal habitats using cameras and GPS devices. This volunteer activity is open to the general public. All volunteers must register with MCVS and complete a wildlife and safety orientation prior to being assigned to a team. Orientations will be scheduled on an ongoing basis.
- Over 3,400 volunteers are registered to assist with volunteer activities along the Gulf Coast. MCVS is continuing to accept volunteer registration. BP is directing all volunteer inquiries to www.mcvs.org ; volunteers can register online to participate in oil spill cleanup activities.
- MCVS is working with BP and Tri-state contractors in Mississippi to determine appropriate support roles for volunteers in wildlife rehabilitation.
- MCVS is prepared to open four Volunteer Response Centers (VRCs) in the event oil impacts the MS coast and volunteer response is needed in the following locations:

Hancock County

Hancock County Resource Agency
454 Hwy. 90
Waveland, MS 39576
Coordinating Agency: United Way of South MS

Jackson County

6016 Hwy. 63
Moss Point, MS
Coordinating Agency: MS Audubon Society

Harrison County

Knight Nonprofit Center
11975 Seaway Road
Gulfport, MS
Coordinating Agency: United Way of South MS

Jackson County

Camp Victor
1515 Government Street
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Coordinating Agency: Hands on Mississippi

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Oil spill state agency roundup
May 28, 2010

Please check www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com for regular updates on the spill and the response.

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: 281-366-5511.

Volunteer Hotline/ Community Information: email: horizonresponse@pecpremier.com.

Report fish kills: 228-523-4128.

PEC Hotline: Specialty Wildlife training: 866-647-2338.

Register on MS Commission for Volunteer Service for non-paid volunteer opportunities at mcvs.org.

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