

# News Release



Media Contact: 866-920-MEMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2010

## Mississippi Joint Operations Center Oil Spill Response Updates

**BILOXI**– Listed below are the latest updates and actions taken by members of the Mississippi Joint Operations Center in Biloxi:

### MS Joint Operations Center Oil Spill Operations Update:

- Today marks the 123rd day of the oil spill response.
- Admiral Thad Allen has directed BP to replace the blowout preventer on the well, including the specific conditions required for the replacement to take place.
- Crews removed 30,460 feet of boom from Mississippi waters.
- There is 149,550 feet of boom still deployed in Mississippi.
- Today's claims information for Mississippi provided by BP:
  - Number of claims: 26,155.
  - Total amount paid to date: \$30,493,725.86.
- Vessels of Opportunity deployed today for sub-surface oil testing:
  - 12 from Bayou Caddy.
  - 12 from Pascagoula.
  - 12 from Pass Christian.
  - 12 from Point Cadet.
  - Nine skimmers deployed to assist the Vessels of Opportunity.

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

- Testing for sub-surface oil from Mobile Bay to the Louisiana state is underway. Samples will be collected throughout the water column and sediment from the Gulf floor. Weather permitting, this testing should last two weeks.
- More information about MDEQ's and DMR's roles in oil spill response are available at [www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill) and [www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm](http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm). Water sampling information: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/oilspillmap>, air monitoring data: <http://gulfcoast.airnowtech.org>, and beach monitoring information: <http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi>.

### Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service

- Operations at the Volunteer Response Centers have been consolidated into one location in Harrison County. Contact information for Hancock and Jackson counties remain the same.

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*“Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property”*  
Visit us online at [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org)

- Harrison County: Knight Nonprofit Center, 11975 Seaway Road, Gulfport. 228-596-5780; [harrisonvrc@gmail.com](mailto:harrisonvrc@gmail.com).
- Hancock County: 228-596-5546; [hancockvrc@gmail.com](mailto:hancockvrc@gmail.com).
- Jackson County: 228-382-7358; [jacksonvrc@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonvrc@gmail.com).
- The Coast Watcher Program has been extended through October. New volunteer patrol hours are from 5-7 p.m.

**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.
- If not satisfied with BP's claims resolution, call the National Pollution Funds Center: 800-280-7118.

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