



CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

SECRETARY MICHAEL W. SOLE
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DAVID HALSTEAD
State Coordinating Officer

MEDIA ADVISORY: THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2010

CONTACT: PUBLIC INFORMATION (ESF 14): (850) 921-0217

FLORIDA DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE JULY 8, 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:

- Tar balls, tar patties and sheen have been reported in Northwest Florida, though fewer impacts have been observed due to westward-moving winds and ocean currents. View the latest reconnaissance reports [here](#).
- Continued impacts will be possible in Northwest Florida over the next 72 hours, likely in the form of tar balls and tar patties.
- 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.
- The tropical wave in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico organized into Tropical Depression #2 at 11:00 p.m. Wednesday night. At 5:00 a.m. EDT Thursday, the system was approximately 160 miles east-southeast of Brownsville, Texas, or 500 miles southwest of the Deepwater Horizon well head site. Maximum sustained winds are currently near 35mph. Additional intensification is possible,

and there is a chance that Tropical Depression #2 could become Tropical Storm Bonnie just before making landfall this afternoon near the Texas/Mexico border.

On Site Actions:

- Current projections estimate Deepwater Horizon's discharge at 35,000 to 60,000 barrels per day. [Learn more](#).
- BP is continuing its efforts to contain the leak and capture a substantial amount of leaking oil from the use of the [Lower Marine Riser Package \(LMRP\) Cap Containment System](#). Get daily oil collection numbers [here](#).
- BP continues efforts to drill two relief wells.

State Actions:

- The State Emergency Operations Center is activated at Level 1.
- 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.
- On July 7, Governor Crist attended the opening of Florida's first branch office committed to oil spill response. The branch office, located in Pensacola, will serve both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, bringing together federal, state and local agencies to streamline response efforts. This branch office will be followed by three additional branch offices that will serve Northwest Florida. The other three offices will be Okaloosa/Walton, Bay, and Gulf/Franklin/Wakulla/Jefferson. [Learn more](#).
- 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 7 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 438,000 feet of hard boom and 8,260 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 7, 316,261 feet of supplemental boom has been deployed or staged by Florida contractors.

Health Effects:

- There are Oil Impact Notices 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:

- On July 4, NOAA revised the commercial and recreational fishing closure in the oil impacted areas of the Gulf of Mexico. The new closure measures 81,181 square miles. This federal closure does not apply to any state waters and still leaves approximately 66 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.](#)
- 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, and much more.
- 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: 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (voice).

###