



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE
CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA

Media Contact
866-920-MEMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 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 Governor's Office:

- More than 200 radios utilizing the MSWIN system have been distributed to help coordinate oil response efforts. These hand held units will be used by air, sea and land operations and enable spotters in the air to communicate directly with vessels in the water to quickly react to possible oil spotted in the water.

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

- MDEQ and MDMR, in conjunction with local officials, have closed the sand beach in Hancock County from Nicholson Avenue, west to the Silver Slipper Casino. The beaches are closed to public use until further notice. Security to ensure non-essential personnel stay off the beach is being provided by local law enforcement.
- The beach advisories for Jackson and Harrison counties **remain in effect**. The following areas had significant amounts tar mats and tar patties on the shoreline:
 - Harrison County: from Third Avenue in Pass Christian to Azalea Avenue in Biloxi.
 - Jackson County: Main Street in the Belle Fountain area west to Seashore Avenue.
 - The public is asked to avoid contact with oil-related materials and stay out of the water if these materials are visible. For updates visit www.deq.state.ms.us.
- Clean up Activities:
 - Horn Island- 30 personnel.
 - Petit Bois Island- 40 personnel.
 - Belle Fontaine Beach- two shifts with 40 personnel.
 - 11009 Point Aux Chene Road- two shifts with 10 personnel.
 - Pascagoula Beach- two shifts with 200 personnel.
 - Lake Mars Avenue- two shifts 10 personnel.
 - Sing River Island- two shifts with 30 personnel.

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- Six Mississippi skimmers are operating and reporting the successful recovery of oil. The area in which the vessels are operating include Bayou Caddy, Long Beach and Ship Island.
- MDMR has closed the Mississippi Sound and other waters to commercial and recreational fishing. Bays and rivers remain open. For exact locations visit www.dmr.ms.gov.

BP and Incident Command Post Mobile:

- Reports two miles of beaches cleaned near the Pass Christian Harbor.
- Reports 536 workers cleaned one mile of beach near Buccaneer State Park in Waveland and picked up 5,215 bags equal to 78,225 pounds of oiled related debris.
- Eight confirmed oiled live birds and 35 oiled dead birds.
- Reports a total of 11,376 claims and \$15,677,402.33 paid in Mississippi.

Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service:

- Residents, volunteers and nonprofit organizations are invited to call or visit Volunteer Response Center locations between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday to seek assistance, request information about volunteering and advertise volunteering opportunities.

Harrison County

11975 Seaway Rd.

Gulfport

Phone: 228-596-5780

Email: harrisonvrc@gmail.com

Hancock County

Hancock County Housing Resource Center

454 Hwy 90, Suite B

Waveland

Phone: 228-596-5546

Email: hancockvrc@gmail.com

Jackson County

1515 Government St.

Ocean Springs

Phone: 228-382-7358

Email: jacksonvrc@gmail.com

- Volunteer support is available for nonprofit organizations affected by the oil spill. Qualifying organizations will demonstrate how requested volunteers can assist in alleviating operational stresses a nonprofit organization is sustaining due to the oil spill. Volunteer support request forms are available at Volunteer Response Centers along the MS Gulf Coast.

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MS Department of Employment Security:

- MDES is accepting applications for Mississippi residents seeking paid oil response work. Approximately 3,000 people have been hired since the incident. Applicants are encouraged to check the MDES website for clean-up job opportunities at www.mdes.ms.gov

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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