

# News Release



Media Contact: 866-920-MEMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2010

## Mississippi Joint Operations Center Oil Spill 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 101st day of the oil spill.
- The top priority at the rig site is re-engaging Development Driller III and finishing the relief well.
- The anticipated start date for the Hydrostatic Control Plan or static well kill is next week.
- No anomalies have been detected at the spill site. The well continues to be secure and demonstrate integrity.
- The well has been capped for 13 days.
- A total of 240 vessels are available for deployment today.
- Skimmers deployed Wednesday:
  - Bayou Caddy: 11 skimmers.
  - Bay St. Louis/Henderson Point: 12 skimmers.
  - Biloxi: 10 skimmers.
  - Pascagoula/Petit Bois Island: 14 skimmers.
    - Twenty-one gallons of oil/water was collected.
- Plans are in the works to develop a boom recovery strategy to remove boom where it is no longer needed in order to prevent any more damage to sensitive and marsh areas.
- A total of 18,000 feet of absorbent boom was removed from Jackson County on Wednesday. Crews replaced 1,200 feet of hard boom in Jackson County. Crews continued boom maintenance in all three coastal counties.
- Vessels of Opportunity deployed Wednesday:
  - Bayou Caddy: 45 vessels.
  - Pascagoula: 51 vessels.
  - Pass Christian: 42 vessels.
  - Point Cadet: 45 vessels.

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

- MDMR is partnering with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, through the BP Recovered Oil for Wildlife Fund, to provide free of charge turtle excluder device gear and installation instruction to Mississippi commercial shrimpers who agree to voluntarily use TEDs in their skimmer trawls. At 10 a.m. on Friday, MDMR will host a training session on installing NOAA Fisheries TED gear for skimmer trawls. The training will be held at the Biloxi Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. Call DMR at 228-374-5000 for more information and to receive the free TED gear. For questions about the potential federal TED gear requirement for skimmer trawls, contact the NMFS Regional Office at 727-824-5312.

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- Tar balls were spotted in Harrison County Wednesday in the following locations:
  - A 200 yard area east of the Ken Combs pier in Gulfport.
  - Sporadic coverage in the 1.5 mile stretch of beach just west of the Gulfport Harbor.
  - Trace tar balls were found from Paradise Ave. in Biloxi to Courthouse Road in Gulfport.
  - Sporadic tar balls were observed from the Pass Christian Yacht Club to the Long Beach Harbor.
- The following was spotted in Jackson County on Wednesday:
  - Tar balls on Greenwood Island, off Bayou Cassotte Boulevard.
  - Patchy tar balls at the eastern and western ends of Belle Fontaine Point in Ocean Springs.
  - Sporadic tar ball coverage at Graveline Beach in Gautier.
- Sporadic tar balls/patties were spotted along all of the beaches in Hancock County Wednesday.
- MDMR and MDEQ have opened Mississippi's territorial marine waters to licensed live bait shrimping and recreational catch-and-release hook and line fishing in areas previously closed. These areas are not open to any commercial harvesting activities. For more information regarding all open and closed waters, visit [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).
- The beach advisories in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties remain in effect. They are listed at: <http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi>.

#### **Mississippi National Guard:**

- The Mississippi National Guard flew three missions Wednesday in support of Operation Deepwater Horizon Response and will continue flying daily reconnaissance missions to locate oiled beaches, damaged boom and oil nearing the shores.

#### **BP and Incident Command Post Mobile:**

- BP reports 20,920 claims in Mississippi and \$22,340,407.80 has been paid.
- Contact information and more about the claims process can be found at <http://bp.com/claims>.
- The Biloxi claims office will be moving on Friday. The new address as well as the other BP claims offices are as follows:
  - Biloxi - 15812 Lemoine Blvd.
  - Bay St. Louis - 1171 Hwy 90.
  - Pascagoula – 5912 Old Mobile Hwy.

#### **Mississippi Emergency Management Agency**

- MEMA staff is working with BP to resolve reimbursement issues for local and state governments and assisting with individuals as the need arises.
- Operations staff are visiting Vessel of Opportunity collection points and verifying the amount of petroleum product collection.
- Deployed three Area Coordinators to coordinate information with local emergency managers in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties.

#### **Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service:**

- Volunteers are needed for the following organizations:
  - Hancock Chamber of Commerce.
  - Bay St. Louis Childcare Development Center.
  - Coastal Rivers in south Jackson County waterways.
  - Humane Society of South Mississippi.
  - Waveland Animal Shelter.
  - Bay Area Food Bank.

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- Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant.
- Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.
- Gulf Islands National.
- Walter Anderson Museum.
- For more information on volunteer opportunities and responsibilities, visit [www.mcvs.org](http://www.mcvs.org).
- Residents, volunteers and nonprofit organizations are invited to visit Volunteer Response Center locations between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday to seek volunteer information. For locations, visit [www.mcvs.org](http://www.mcvs.org).
- Nonprofit organizations may request volunteer support by completing a request form obtained through a VCR. Requests must be related to the oil spill response.
- MCVS is not accepting any donated materials, supplies, or funds from external organizations or agencies. To make a financial contribution or donate products to Mississippi nonprofits affected by the oil spill, please register your resources with the National Donations Management Network-Mississippi at [www.aidmartix.org](http://www.aidmartix.org).
- For more information, visit [www.mcvs.org](http://www.mcvs.org) and click on register to volunteer.

**MS Department of Employment Security:**

- MDES is accepting applications for Mississippi residents seeking paid oil response work. Visit [www.mdes.ms.gov](http://www.mdes.ms.gov), and click on the oil spill link.

**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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