



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## STATE AGENCIES UPDATE OIL SPILL RESPONSE ACTIONS

**BILOXI-** State agencies in Mississippi continue to prepare for possible impacts from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. There are currently **no** official reports of oil in any Mississippi waters, barrier islands or beaches. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources are leading the state response with British Petroleum as the responsible party.

**Boom deployment:** Currently more than 355,000 feet of boom has been deployed to protect sensitive areas along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. MDEQ and MDMR are directing the placement of booms.

The following are the latest actions taken by state agencies and BP in Mississippi:

**MS DEQ:** Collected additional environmental and tissue samples to develop baseline of pre-impact oil levels. DEQ also conducted pre-impact sampling at locations in Biloxi Bay, Pascagoula and Bay St. Louis to establish environmental background. DEQ investigated five reported fish/turtle kills in Jackson and Hancock counties that are not believed to be oil related. NOAA took samples for further analysis.

**MS DMR:** Conducted state line to state line reconnaissance flight over beaches and Mississippi Sound to inspect booms, which were found to be in good condition. No visible oil observed. DMR collected tissue samples from crabs in two areas of Jackson County to establish pre-impact levels. DMR took samples from oyster reefs in western part of Mississippi Sound.

**MS State Department of Health:** Potential health effects surveillance continues at coast hospitals and is expanding to include several urgent care clinics. No illnesses related to the petroleum spill have been seen.

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**MS Military Department:** There are a total of 53 members of the Mississippi National Guard on orders for the oil spill response, including 48 Army and five Air guardsmen. The MS Military Department is conducting reconnaissance flights and sampling missions.

**MS Emergency Management Agency:** Coordinating volunteer operations with the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service. MEMA deployed planning, operations and public information support teams to the area coordination center in Biloxi and Emergency Operations Centers in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties.

**MS Dept. of Employment Security:** Accepting applications from coast residents seeking paid oil response work at WIN Job Centers as well as online at [www.mdes.ms.gov](http://www.mdes.ms.gov).

**MS Commission for Volunteer Service:** Accepting registration of volunteers at [www.mcvs.org](http://www.mcvs.org). MCVS is working with BP to identify prospective volunteer activities.

**BP:** Contractors have trained 1,500 vessels of opportunity, signed 205 boat captains to contracts and have posted 1,000 jobs in Mississippi.

Please check [www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com](http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com) for a 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: 866-448-5816

Alternative technology, services or products: 281-366-1555

Vessels of Opportunity: 281-366-1555

Volunteer 866-448-5816

Register with the MS Commission for Volunteer Service for non-paid volunteer opportunities at [www.mcvs.org](http://www.mcvs.org).

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