

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 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:

- BP has dispatched all assets to return to the spill site.
- Tropical Storm Bonnie has delayed top kill operations for seven to 10 days. Development Drillers II and III returned to the site and are making preparations to resume drilling the relief wells.
- As of Monday morning, pressure readings continue to hold steady.
- The Blowout Preventer continues to have a leak with hydrate formation that is being monitored.
- Mississippi deployed a total of 155 vessels today.
- Night operations will resume today.
- Skimmers deployed Monday:
 - Bayou Caddy: 11 skimmers.
 - Bay St. Louis/Henderson Point: 12 skimmers.
 - Biloxi: 10 skimmers.
 - Pascagoula/Petit Bois Island: 14 skimmers.
 - No oil was collected.
- No boom was deployed or removed Monday.
- Vessels of Opportunity deployed Monday:
 - Bayou Caddy: 15 vessels.
 - Pascagoula: 17 vessels.
 - Pass Christian: 24 vessels.
 - Point Cadet: 14 vessels.

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

- Leased skimmers worked the shoreline in Harrison and Hancock County. The Henderson Point skimmer worked around Ship and Horn Islands in the Mississippi Sound. More information and links about MDEQ's and DMR's roles in oil spill response are available at www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill and www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm. Water sampling information available at: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/oilspillmap> and air monitoring data at: <http://gulfoast.airnowtech.org>.
- A mandatory crab trap removal order by MDMR and MDEQ, which goes into effect at 6 p.m. Wednesday, is only for the closed waters of the Mississippi Sound. Contact the MDMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau at 228-374-5000 with any questions or concerns.
- Sporadic tar balls were spotted on beaches in Jackson and Hancock counties. Tar patties

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were spotted in Harrison County, mostly at the edge of the water line.

- 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.
- The beach advisories in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties remain in effect. They are listed at: <http://www.usm.edu/gcr1/msbeach/index.cgi>.

Mississippi National Guard:

- The Mississippi National Guard flew three missions Monday 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 18,808 claims in Mississippi and \$21,863,475.01 has been paid.
- Claims offices in Mississippi are located in each of the coastal counties. Office locations, contact information and more about the claims process can be found at <http://bp.com/claims>.

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 arise.
- 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.
 - Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant.
 - Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.
 - Gulf Islands National.
 - Walter Anderson Museum.
- For more information on volunteer opportunities and responsibilities, visit 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.mcv.org.
- Nonprofit organizations can request volunteers by completing a request form obtained through a VCR. Volunteer requests must be related to the oil spill response.

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- 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 with the National Donations Management Network-Mississippi at www.aidmartix.org.
- For more information, visit www.mcvvs.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, 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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