



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE
CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA

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866-920-MEMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2010

Mississippi Oil Spill Response Updates

*****Update: MDEQ/MDMR did not close Beach Boulevard in Hancock County, the road was closed by the county.*****

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:

- Eight of the nine skimmers produced for Mississippi in France were delivered on Sunday. The skimmers are being leased to the state and will be positioned as follows:
 - Three skimmers in Point Cadet, three in Bayou Caddy and three in Pass Christian.

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 is being provided by local law enforcement.
- The beach advisories, issued 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.
- MDMR has closed the Mississippi Sound and other waters to commercial and recreational fishing. For exact locations visit www.dmr.ms.gov.

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BP and Incident Command Post Mobile:

- Reports two miles of beaches cleaned near the Pass Christian Harbor.
- Reports 89 workers cleaned one mile of beach near Buccaneer State Park in Waveland. They picked up 550 bags equal to 8,250 pounds of oiled related debris. An additional 100 workers will continue to work overnight.
- Reports a total of 10,534 claims and \$15,328,315.68 paid in Mississippi.
- Local nonprofits and businesses on the Mississippi Gulf Coast will hold a public informational fair from noon to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 8 at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum's Conference Hall D, to inform any community members or businesses about claims and other resources available to them. Vietnamese and Spanish interpreters will be on site.
For more information, contact Kaitlin Truong at (228) 806-1384, or Farlene Bowman at (228) 435-3113.

MS Department of Employment Security:

- All job opportunities remain on hold for recruitment from BP. Approximately 3,000 people have been hired since the incident. Applicants are encouraged to check the MDES website for clean-up job updates 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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