

Deepwater Horizon Incident Q&A

Frequently Asked Questions (1)

1.1 What is Florida doing to contain the oil spill?

Under the leadership of Governor Charlie Crist, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the State Emergency Response Team are actively coordinating and responding to the Deepwater Horizon incident. Currently, the State Emergency Operations Center is activated at a Level 2, partial activation. By activating the Emergency Operations Center, Florida is working closely with BP, the federal government as well as the counties under the Governor's Executive Order. Governor Crist has requested financial assistance for Florida, from BP America. To date, BP has issued a \$25 Million block grant with a priority of securing booming; and additional \$25 Million for a national tourism campaign to promote Florida tourism. BP has committed to \$100,000 for Volunteer Florida to maintain a database for the registration of volunteers. An additional \$25 Million will be issued by BP to Florida for preparedness and recovery. State recovery operations have included the use of skimming vessels and booming as well as extensive beach cleanup activities. No new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15 and the latest interagency report indicates that the majority of the oil has been removed either by natural means or via cleanup efforts. The report estimated that through direct recovery efforts (such as burning, skimming) 25% of the oil released by the wellhead has been removed from Gulf of Mexico waters. Another 25% either naturally dissolved or evaporated into the environment. 24% of the oil was dispersed, either naturally or as a result of operations such as adding microscopic droplets into the water. The remaining 26% is either on the shore and has been collected or buried, OR is still in the water as sheen and weathered tar products. Link to the full report at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com> under the Florida Deepwater Horizon Response dated 8/5/2010. You may also sign up for email alerts from this website. In addition, DEP launched a Twitter account, www.Twitter.com/FLDEPalert, dedicated to providing updates on Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

1.2 How can I get information regarding volunteer efforts for cleaning up in the shoreline?

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Services is coordinating volunteer efforts. Contact and other beach information for citizens can be found at <http://www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org/> or simply go to www.VolunteerFlorida.org and click "Register to Help". This site is updated regularly, so please check back often for ways to help Florida's coastal resources. BP also has a volunteer program and has established a toll-free phone number 1-866-448-5816 (Option 5). If you would like to offer your vessel for use as a Vessel of Opportunity, please call (281) 366-5511.

1.3 We have planned a vacation in Florida. Do you have information on conditions of the water and beach?

To ensure Florida's visitors are able to make the most informed travel planning decisions, VISIT FLORIDA has created [Florida Live](http://FloridaLive) at VISITFLORIDA.com. This new webpage allows those planning a trip to Florida to see what's really happening in the state at any given time. They can watch live webcams, read Twitter feeds and daily blog posts by tourism experts, see date-and-

time stamped photos and videos taken by people enjoying Florida now, and view a listing of vacation deals that include a worry free guarantee so they can book with confidence.

VISIT FLORIDA's website also has a Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Update page that is kept current with the latest daily reports from the official State of Florida sources. Here visitors will find links to information on the science of the spill and be able to read about the impact to any part of Florida in real time. Links to every Convention and Visitors Center website in the state so visitors can follow the local updates about the location they are interested in visiting.

To see [Florida Live](#), go to www.VISITFLORIDA.com.

Additional information can be found at www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com under Quick Links for "Closures" and "Health Information and Advisories". To learn about conditions at Florida State Parks, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org. [Florida's state parks](#) are all open for public enjoyment. This website will be updated daily and will list any parks that may be closed due to the Deepwater Horizon Incident. Visitors with camping or cabin reservations will be notified if their stay will be impacted. If you have any questions, please call (850) 245-2157.

1.4 Who should I contact about my/my company's product/service/idea that can assist with the cleanup efforts/stop the oil leak?

To submit products, services or ideas please complete the [Innovative Technology Evaluation Sheet](#) [PDF 129KB] located under the "Resources" link on DEP's Deepwater Horizon Response page (www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com). Send the completed form and any other supporting documentation to Innovative.Technology@dep.state.fl.us. Please note that the Innovative Technology Cell does not evaluate products that are considered to be **dispersants**, which are regulated by the federal government. You may also wish to contact BP with your information by calling (281) 366-5511 or online at

<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doc/2931/546759>. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also is participating in the Interagency Alternative Technology Assessment Program which is a cross government effort to more efficiently and responsibly address and evaluate possible technology solutions for the oil spill response efforts. Please provide submissions to this centralized organization for efficient processing at <http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/business/deepwaterhorizon.asp>

1.5 Who to contact if worried about health issues if you or a loved one is worried about health issues related to the Gulf spill?

Florida Department of Health and DEP are closely monitoring health and environmental impacts to Florida. Due to rapidly changing conditions along Florida's beaches, DOH, in coordination with impacted counties is issuing *Oil Impact Notices* in lieu of *Health Advisories*. Oil Impact Notices provide information for the general public to make decisions on whether to avoid entering beach waters, or continue to enjoy above high tide line beach activities. An Oil Impact Notice could potentially stay in place for an extended period of time, and may be removed based on local determination when the beach is no longer impacted by the oil spill. Existing notice signage may be replaced by other informational notices based on the condition of the beach. For a listing and map of impacted beaches visit; <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/BEACHnames.html>. Other sources of up-to-date information are www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm and [www.visitflorida.com/florida travel advisory/](http://www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/). Visitors may also be interested in the

Department of Health's question and answer document that is posted to the DEP web site at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/files/doh_release_051010.pdf.

Oil Impact Notices are posted for all Escambia County and Walton County Gulf beaches, as well as designated beaches in Okaloosa County. Signs may remain in place until local authorities determine that beaches are no longer impacted by the oil spill. Learn more at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm>

Poison centers in the gulf region are available to take any and all health-related calls related to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Please call your local poison center at 1 (800) 222-1222.

1.7 How can I report oiled shoreline?

If oil is sited on Florida's coastline, please report it to the State Warning Point at 1-877-272-8335 (877-2-SAVE-FL) or by dialing #DEP from most cell phones. You may also contact the Rapid Response Team hotline at (866) 448-5816.

1.8 Who can I contact to provide my boat or vessel to help with the oil containment?

If you would like to offer your vessel for use as a Vessel of Opportunity, please call toll free, 1-866-279-7983.

1.13 The news says that oil is now in Florida. What is being done to stop it/protect FL?

State recovery operations have included the use of skimming vessels and booming as well as extensive beach cleanup activities. Hundreds of thousands of feet of boom were placed according to where the oil was threatening and according to each region's area contingency plan. In addition to specified skimming vessels, approximately 400 additional vessels have been deployed in Florida for skimming as part of the "Vessels of Opportunity" program. Daily reconnaissance flights and shoreline patrols are being conducted and real-time information from these daily flights and patrols can be viewed at <http://map.floridadisaster.org/gator/>. Although no new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15 and the latest interagency report indicates that the majority of the oil has been removed either by natural means or via cleanup efforts, cleanup crews remain on site. The Governor and Secretary Sole continue to work very hard to make sure that BP and the Unified Command provide Florida with all of the resources needed to protect Florida waters and coastline.

1.14 Where is the oil now and where is it expected to go?

No new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15 and the latest interagency report indicates that the majority of the oil has been removed either by natural means or via cleanup efforts. The remaining 26% is either on the shore and has been collected or buried, OR is still in the water as sheen and weathered tar products. Link to the full report at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com> under the Florida Deepwater Horizon Response dated 8/5/2010. Although sporadic sightings of tar balls may continue, Florida's shoreline is not expected to receive additional impacts over the next 72 hours. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced on July 30, 2010 that a new analysis shows Southern Florida, the Florida Keys, and the East Coast are unlikely to experience any effects from the remaining oil on the surface of the Gulf and that the remaining surface oil is hundreds of miles away from the loop current and in the process of degrading. (To view NOAA's press release on this visit, <http://app.restorethegulf.gov/go/doc/2931/835719/>). For additional information,

on the oil spill in general, check the Deepwater Response updates at www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com.

1.15 Will I be able to walk on the beach if oil sheen washes up along the shore?

Although sporadic sightings of tar balls may continue, Florida's shoreline is not expected to receive additional impacts over the next 72 hours and all of Florida's state parks are open for public enjoyment. Beaches (including those within state parks) would *only* be closed if they became unsafe to walk on. If a beach within a state park was closed, there would be signs posted and people would be notified at the gate upon entering. Visitors would not be authorized to go onto the beach and would be asked to recreate in other areas of the park. Florida waters and beaches are monitored daily for oil spill impacts. Oil in the water or on the beach poses little risk to the health of the general public if they remain out of the water. For most people, occasional brief contact with a small amount of oil, while not recommended, will do no harm. If contact occurs, wash the area with soap and water. Only qualified community responders should handle oil products and oil-contaminated materials.

Florida residents, visitors, and volunteers are not to engage in direct contact with oil and oil-contaminated products such as tar balls, tar patty, tar mats, and oil sheen.

Consider the following tips for avoiding negative health impacts from an oiled shoreline:

- Avoid entering areas where oil can be seen or smelled.
- Avoid direct skin contact with oil, oil-contaminated water and sediments.
- Do not swim or ski in areas affected by the oil spill, and if traveling through the area by boat, take precautions when hoisting the boat anchor. If oil makes contact with skin, wash it off with soap and water.
- Do not harvest or eat dead fish, fish with oily residue or fish that have a petroleum odor.
- Avoid boating through oil slicks or sheens.
- Young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and individuals with underlying respiratory conditions should avoid the area.
- Prevent pets from entering oil-contaminated areas.
- If residents or visitors see tar or oiled debris on the beach, **DO NOT PICK IT UP**. Report it to the Florida State Warning Point by calling #DEP from a cell phone or **1-877-2-SAVE-FL** (1-877-272-8335).

Beach visitors are reminded that some state law enforcement officers and clean-up workers are using All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) to quickly gather information and respond to reported coastal impacts, and they should give these vehicles the right of way.

For the most up-to-date health related information for Florida's beach waters, visitors are encouraged to visit www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm or www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/.

For information on Florida State Parks visit the Florida State Parks website at <http://floridastateparks.org/> or visit the DEP Deepwater Horizon website at www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com and click on "closures".

To learn more about the potential health impacts and first aid measures regarding the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, view the Health Frequently Asked Questions at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/files/faq_doh_051010.pdf

1.16 I've heard that they have stopped the oil leak. Is that true?

Yes. No new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15. As part of the static kill procedure, BP has been authorized by the National Incident Commander to begin cementing operations on the well. Due to the success of the static kill operation and the progress toward a permanent well-kill, the threat of heavy impact to the state of Florida is significantly reduced and the State Emergency Operations Center has transitioned to a Level 2, partial activation. However, the State Emergency Response Team remains focused on protecting Florida's businesses, residents, visitors, and communities from any oil remaining in the Gulf and will continue to coordinate with federal, state and local partners to ensure that any further impacts to Florida's coastline are quickly responded to and cleaned up. A recently released interagency report indicates that the majority of the oil has been removed either by natural means or via cleanup efforts. The remaining 26% is either on the shore and has been collected or buried, OR is still in the water as sheen and weathered tar products. Link to the full report at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com> under the Florida Deepwater Horizon Response dated 8/5/2010.

1.17 Can a tsunami result from the Deepwater Horizon Incident?

Scenarios of tsunamis are a growing concern in relation to the Deepwater Horizon incident. These scenarios involve the naturally occurring methane beneath the seafloor in the Macondo Discovery, which is the petroleum reservoir into which the Deepwater Horizon production well was drilled. Scientists and engineers are aware of the physical and chemical behavior of methane in the earth and ocean, as well as during production of petroleum. Methane is naturally present in seawater and as one would expect, is present in higher than normal amounts in the water column in the vicinity of the Deepwater Horizon incident. However, methane floats to the ocean surface in the form of small bubbles, where it is then released to the atmosphere.

As oil and gas are removed from a deep subsurface reservoir via a production well like the one associated with Deepwater Horizon, a giant void space is not left behind once the oil and gas is withdrawn or otherwise allowed to flow out of the reservoir because the microscopic pore spaces are filled by the surrounding pressurized saline water.

Science does not support the notion of a methane-induced tsunami resulting from Deepwater Horizon activities. However, while the possibility of an induced tsunami is extremely remote, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continues to take all concerns seriously and is consulting with experts in all related scientific fields.

1.18 I've heard that the Military is working on evacuation plans for the Gulf Coast. Is that true?

No. There are no plans to evacuate the Gulf or any other part of Florida due to the oil incident in the Gulf. Please refer to www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com for the latest information on this event. Important notices to the public will be posted to this site along with other media sources.

1.19 Why are they removing boom that has been placed to protect our area?

No new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15 and although sporadic sightings of tar balls may continue, Florida's shoreline is not expected to receive additional impacts over the next 72 hours. Protective boom is used to deflect heavy oil product away from sensitive coastlines and is not effective in preventing tarballs from washing ashore. In addition, dislodged boom (such as can happen during rough seas or storms) can severely damage fragile coastline and estuaries. Consequently, the State Emergency Response Team, in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard officials and county partners has begun removal of boom. In the unlikely event that boom is needed again for Deepwater Horizon recovery activities, it would be re-deployed.

Fisheries/Seafood (12)

1.9 Where can I find more information about the impact on fishing?

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' website, <http://www.fl-seafood.com/> provides up-to-date information on Florida's fisheries, and the Florida Seafood Hotline, 1-800-357-4273, is updated daily at 2:00 PM, and provides information on what state waters are open, Florida's seafood supply, pricing and what seafood is being harvested and available frozen. Governor Crist announced that The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reopened previously closed coastal state waters offshore of Escambia County to the harvest of saltwater fish. The FWC closed this area on June 14 as a precautionary measure due to possible impacts of oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The FWC is reopening this 23-mile area because careful laboratory analysis of fish from the area confirms they are safe and oil-free. The sampling and laboratory analyses were conducted under the supervision of the United States Food and Drug Administration and NOAA. The fish tested passed all standards for safe consumption. Oil has not been observed in the closed area of state waters for some time and was being closely monitored by state officials using aerial over-flights and visual observations on the water. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/> or at <http://myfwc.com/OilSpill/index.htm>. With respect to areas of the Gulf outside of Florida, on April 30, 2010 the state of Louisiana closed the molluscan shellfish beds in growing in certain areas to harvest as a precautionary measure. Product harvested before this ban went into effect should be safe from oil contamination. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service will continue to monitor the situation and notify the public if any problem is detected with seafood from this area of the country. Please visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/> for additional information.

Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call (800) 440-0858.

8.1 Can I still eat seafood caught in the Gulf?

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' website, <http://www.fl-seafood.com/> provides up-to-date information on Florida's fisheries, and the Florida Seafood Hotline, 1-800-357-4273, is updated daily at 2:00 PM, and provides information on what state waters are open, Florida's seafood supply, pricing and what seafood is being harvested and available frozen. Governor Crist announced that The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has reopened previously closed coastal state waters offshore of Escambia County to the harvest of saltwater fish. The FWC closed this area on June 14 as a precautionary

measure due to possible impacts of oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The FWC is reopening this 23-mile area because careful laboratory analysis of fish from the area confirms they are safe and oil-free. The sampling and laboratory analyses were conducted under the supervision of the United States Food and Drug Administration and NOAA. The fish tested passed all standards for safe consumption. Oil has not been observed in the closed area of state waters for some time and was being closely monitored by state officials using aerial over-flights and visual observations on the water. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/> or at <http://myfwc.com/OilSpill/index.htm>. With respect to areas of the Gulf outside of Florida, on April 30, 2010 the state of Louisiana closed the molluscan shellfish beds in growing in certain areas to harvest as a precautionary measure. Product harvested before this ban went into effect should be safe from oil contamination. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service will continue to monitor the situation and notify the public if any problem is detected with seafood from this area of the country. Please visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/> for additional information.

12.1 Is seafood from my local market safe?

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' website, <http://www.fl-seafood.com/> provides up-to-date information on Florida's fisheries, and the Florida Seafood Hotline, 1-800-357-4273, is updated daily at 2:00 PM, and provides information on what state waters are open, Florida's seafood supply, pricing and what seafood is being harvested and available frozen. The public should not be concerned about the safety of seafood they are buying at this time. The seafood at market has not been affected. The Federal and State governments have strong systems in place to test and monitor seafood safety and to prohibit harvesting from affected areas, keeping potentially oiled products out of the market.

12.2 Who is responsible for ensuring seafood safety?

Federal and state agencies are working together to ensure seafood safety. If managers determine that seafood may be affected, the next step is to assess whether seafood is tainted or contaminated to levels that could pose a risk to human health through consumption. A combination of sensory analysis (of tissue) and chemical analysis (of water, sediment, and tissue) is conducted to determine if seafood is safe following an oil spill. The results will be made public as soon as possible.

1.10 How are fish advisories developed?

The Florida Department of Health (DOH), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services operate jointly to determine if environmental chemicals are present in fish from Florida waters. DOH determines the potential for adverse human health effects from consuming the fish and issues fish consumption advisories when needed. Please check with the DOH periodically, as they will provide updates at <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/fishconsumptionadvisories/index.html> The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides input on issues related to commercially available seafood.

12.3 I'm concerned about being able to get and/or eat Florida seafood. Where can I get more information?

Anyone concerned or confused about availability of Florida seafood products due to the Gulf oil spill can now get daily updates about the ongoing commercial harvest. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) has implemented a new toll-free hotline at **1-800-357-4273** to provide consumers with current information about the status of Florida's open and closed fishing harvest areas, the availability of seafood varieties, and general pricing information. The information that is available by calling the hotline will also be posted online at the DACS's seafood web site www.FL-Seafood.com where consumers can also find links to other pertinent web sites including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Webcams placed at various coastal locations and in retail establishments will be added to the web site later.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are continually monitoring water and product samples. If and when the quality of Florida seafood is impacted by the spill, we will take immediate action to close the waters to commercial seafood harvesting

12.4 I heard/saw on the news about a large fish kill in Gulf County/St. Joe area. Is this because of oil from the Deepwater Horizon incident?

While the results from testing are not in yet, officials feel it is **highly unlikely** that this incident is related to the Deepwater Horizon spill as there have been no confirmed impacts in Gulf County to date. After receiving notice that there appeared to be a fish kill in Gulf County near Port St. Joe, members of the State Emergency Response Team responded. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took samples of the fish and the Department of Health took water quality samples. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) also sampled the water and inspected the area for oil and no visible oil was found. DEP is testing the water samples for hydrocarbons and the results should be available until next week. (*week of 8/8/10*)

State of Emergency/Recovery (2)

2.1 Are there any areas in Florida declared a state of emergency?

Governor Crist has declared a state of emergency for the following counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Bay, Franklin and Wakulla counties.

1.12 How can I get access to some of the Block Grant money coming to Florida?

To date, BP has issued a \$25 Million block grant with a priority of securing booming. This grant funding announced by on June 4th is detailed at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/files/block_grant_release050410.pdf , and will be available for use by counties designated in the Governor's Executive Order so that local governments can use funding toward recovery and protection of areas they believe are significant but that are not included in the Area Contingency Plan. Counties will submit requests through the Emergency Operations Center for review and if approved, they will be reimbursed through the Division of Emergency Management. Additional information may also be found at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/files/financial_plan_response.pdf

An additional \$25 Million will be issued by PB to Florida for preparedness and recovery. For more information on that grant, see http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/files/061010_govcrist_additional_bpfund.pdf BP has committed another \$25 Million for a national tourism campaign to promote Florida tourism. BP has committed to \$100,000 for Volunteer Florida to maintain a database for the registration of volunteers.

Health Concerns

****The following can be used as a lead-in to any health concern questions****

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and DEP are closely monitoring health and environmental impacts to Florida. Due to rapidly changing conditions along Florida's beaches, County Health Departments in coordination with local emergency management offices in impacted counties are, issuing *Oil Impact Notices* in lieu of *Health Advisories*. Oil Impact Notices provide information for the general public to make decisions on whether to avoid entering beach waters, or continue to enjoy above high tide line beach activities. An Oil Impact Notice could potentially stay in place for an extended period of time, and may be removed based on local determination when the beach is no longer impacted by the oil spill. Existing notice signage may be replaced by other informational notices based on the condition of the beach. For quick information on closures and notices, please visit www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com and click on "*Health Information and Advisories*" and "*Closures*" under Quick Links. (direct addresses = www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm & <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/closures.htm>).

For a listing and map of impacted beaches visit; <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/BEACHnames.html>. Other sources of up-to-date information are www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm and www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/. Visitors may also be interested in the Department of Health's question and answer document that is posted to the DEP web site at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/files/doh_release_051010.pdf.

Health Concerns – Air Quality (3)

1.6 Where can I find air quality information?

Statewide monitoring is ongoing in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To view Florida's air quality data, visit <http://www.airnow.gov/> or <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>. In addition, real-time sampling data can be viewed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/air.htm>.

3.1 Is the air in my neighborhood going to become contaminated with pollutants from burning the oil slick?

At this time there are no indications of any health risks to Floridians due to the Deepwater Horizon incident. The Department of Health and DEP are closely monitoring health and environmental impacts to Florida and County Health Departments in coordination with local emergency management offices will post Oil Impact Notices if any conditions become unsafe. Please monitor the DEP Deepwater Horizon Response website at

www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com or simply click on DEP's homepage at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/> and click on the Deepwater Horizon Response button. We cannot be sure what the impact of the burning will be to the Florida atmosphere – it depends on weather conditions. To view Florida's air quality data, visit <http://www.airnow.gov/> or <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>. In addition, real-time sampling data can be viewed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/air.htm>.

3.2 How do I know the air around me is safe?

Currently, there is no indication of any health risks for Floridians. The results of EPA's sampling efforts will be posted at www.epa.gov/bpspill and based on the results, recommendations for the public will be made as needed. EPA is continues to gather air samples to test for vapors that may evaporate from the water/oil mixture in the Gulf as well as for particulate matter or fine particles that may result from the smoke generated by any controlled burns that occur. The levels of particulate matter and volatile organic compound chemicals are being tracked closely. To view Florida's air quality data, visit <http://www.airnow.gov/> or <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>. In addition, real-time sampling data can be viewed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/air.htm> or simply go to www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com and click on "*Health Information and Advisories*" under Quick Links in the upper right-hand of the page.

3.3 If I experience breathing difficulties, what do I do?

If you experience breathing difficulties, seek medical attention immediately.

To the extent possible, stay indoors, close windows and doors, and turn your air conditioner on and set it to a recirculation mode.

3.4 Who do I report air quality concerns to?

Residents may air quality changes they suspect are related to the Deepwater Horizon incident to www.epa.gov/bpspill. Individuals with an air quality question or concern may also contact the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.

3.5 I've heard that EPA would stop the burning of oil if elevated levels of pollution occur? When would EPA stop the burning?

EPA is consistently monitoring the air quality and will continue to do so if any additional burning occurs. If elevated emission levels of harmful air pollution detected, then EPA will take any and all appropriate steps to protect public health.

3.6 What is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection doing in regards to monitoring air quality from BP's controlled burns of the oil slick?

Florida DEP continues to monitor for any potential air quality impacts associated with the oil spill. As DEP receives information, either from its own air monitoring data or from its partners (e.g. EPA), DEP will keep the public informed via the Deepwater Horizon website. You may also sign up for email alerts at the DEP website. (www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com)

3.7 What are Federal and state agencies doing to monitor the air?

Federal and state agencies are working around the clock to monitor air quality and keep communities informed. The results of EPA's sampling efforts will be posted at

www.epa.gov/bpspill and based on these results, recommendations for the public will be made as needed. EPA continues to gather air samples to test for vapors that may evaporate from the water/oil mixture in the Gulf as well as for particulate matter or fine particles that may result from any controlled burns that occur. The levels of particulate matter and volatile organic compound chemicals are being tracked closely. To view Florida's air quality data, visit <http://www.airnow.gov/> or <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>. In addition, real-time sampling data can be viewed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/air.htm> or simply go to www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com and click on "*Health Information and Advisories*" under Quick Links in the upper right-hand of the page.

1. Mobile air monitoring buses equipped with Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzers, or TAGAs, for instant-result air monitoring have been brought in. The TAGA Vans will be monitoring the odors as well as other volatile compounds.
2. Responders on the ground have portable equipment that can detect any spikes in the levels of odor-causing compounds.
3. Aircraft are also deployed to collect air sampling data, specifically tasked to detect the presence of increased odors and sulfur dioxide resulting from the oil spill.
4. Additional monitors are in place to further monitor the chemical levels in the air.
5. The Gulf Coast states have permanent stationary air monitors that are working to monitor general air quality. Over the next days and weeks of the response to the BP Spill, these monitoring stations will detect possible emissions of pollution from the fires associated with burning off the oil spill.

Health Concerns – Air Odor (5)

5.1 I live close to the Gulf Coast. What do I do if I notice a strange smell that I think is coming from the oil spill?

Currently, there is no indication of any health risks or odors associated with the oil spill for Floridians. The BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico, also known as Deepwater Horizon, *could* cause an odor similar to that smelled near a gas station for communities along the affected coast. For your own comfort, limit your exposure to the odor by staying indoors. To the extent possible, close windows and doors, turn your air conditioner on and set to a recirculation mode. If you are experiencing severe incidents of nausea or other medical issues, please seek medical care as soon as possible. Individuals with an air quality questions or concerns may contact the EPA Region 4 National Response Center at (800) 424.8802.

5.2 Is the odor bad for my health?

There is currently no adverse health effects at the levels of compounds in the air measured to date. However, if the spill does generate an odor, this odor may cause symptoms such as headaches or nausea. For your own comfort, limit exposure to the odor by staying indoors. To the extent possible, close windows and doors, turn your air conditioner on and set to a recirculation mode. If you experience severe incidents of nausea or other medical issues, seek medical care as soon as possible.

5.3 What if the odor gets worse?

Wind and weather will play a role in the strength of any odor caused by the spill but if it occurs, would likely persist for a few days. In this case, residents should stay tuned to your local news

stations and newspapers for further information. You will be notified to take additional precautions if federal and state agencies learn of worsening conditions.

Health Concerns – Drinking Water (4)

4.5 Who is sampling and monitoring the water?

DEP conducted water and sediment sampling to use as a baseline and is monitoring air quality data. Learn more at <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>. State sampling data can be found at www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com under on “*Water Sampling*” (under the Quick Links). Additional water sampling information can be found at www.nrddata.org. Federal and state agencies are tracking the prevalence of potentially harmful chemicals in the water as a result of this spill to determine the level of risk posed to fish and other wildlife. While these chemicals can impact ecosystems, drinking water supplies are not expected to be affected. Monitoring information helps estimate the amount of these compounds that may reach ecological systems. When combined with available information on the toxicity of these compounds, scientists can estimate the likely magnitude of effects on fish, wildlife, and human health.

4.1 Is my water safe to drink?

The oil spill is not currently expected to affect drinking water.

4.2 Will my private well be impacted by the oil spill?

The oil spill is not expected to impact domestic wells.

4.3 How will I know if my water isn't safe to drink?

The oil spill is not currently expected to affect drinking water. However, if there was some effect on drinking water, your water supplier must notify you by newspaper, mail, radio, TV or hand-delivery if your water doesn't meet EPA or state standards or if there is a waterborne disease emergency. The notice will describe any precautions you need to take, such as boiling your water. Follow the advice of your water supplier if you ever receive such a notice. If you have a private well, you may wish to have your well tested as a part of regular maintenance. There are many private contractors who do this type of testing. The Department of Health has a web page that may assist you further at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/privatewells.html>

4.4 My water tastes or smells different. What should I do?

If you have any concerns about your water, you should contact your water supplier. The oil spill is not expected to affect drinking water. If your water supply does not meet EPA or state standards your water supplier must notify you by newspaper, mail, radio, TV or hand-delivery. If you have a private well, you may wish to have your well tested. There are many private contractors who do this type of testing. The Department of Health has a web page that may assist you further at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/privatewells.html>

Wildlife Impacts (6)

6.1 What should I do if I see turtle or bird nests in danger of becoming contaminated by the approaching oil?

Please do not try to move or disturb turtle or bird nests. To report oiled wildlife, please call (866) 557.1401.

6.2 What do I do if I see animals injured by the oil?

Report oiled or injured animals to the Wildlife Distress Hotline, call (866) 557-1401.

Landfall Actions

Pre-Landfall Preparation/Prevention (7)

7.1 If I live along Florida's coastline, what measures can I take to protect my yard and home?

Homeowners may be able to help prevent oil from reaching yards and damaging sensitive vegetation by utilizing sandbags or sorbent booms. However, any such measures should be coordinated through the homeowner's county emergency operations centers since incorrect boom placement in navigable waterways can create a serious hazard. A listing of county emergency management contacts can be found at www.floridadisaster.org.

7.3 What can I do to help/how do I volunteer?

For volunteering opportunities, go to www.VolunteerFloridaDisaster.org or simply go to www.VolunteerFlorida.org and click "Register to Help". In addition, you may call the Deepwater Horizon Response Volunteer Request Line at (866) 448-5816.

7.4 My boat is docked in a marina where the oil slick is headed; do I need to get it out of the water?

If have a trailer for your boat, it is recommended you remove your boat from the water.

7.5 What are oil spill dispersants?

Oil spill dispersants are products that break an oil slick into small drops and stop the oil from coming back together to make a new slick. They do not remove oil from water but they do make it easier for nature to break down the oil. Broken down oil is less likely to stick to animals, rocks, and plants.

7.6 How are oil dispersants used?

Oil dispersants are sprayed on top of a slick from planes and ships. They can also be forced under the surface of the water to break up oil before it reaches the surface. At this time there are no plans to use dispersants in Florida. If dispersants are ever considered in state waters, the determination to use the chemical would be evaluated by DEP with input from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Wildlife Research Institute, and EPA.

1.11 What agency gives permission to BP to use chemical dispersants on the oil spill?

The EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard granted BP authorization to use an approved dispersant on oil present on the surface of the water in an effort to mitigate the impact of the spill. In addition, EPA and Coast Guard have authorized BP to use dispersants underwater, at the source of the

Deepwater Horizon leak. For more information on the use of dispersants, visit EPA's web site: <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>

Post-Landfall Actions/Clean-Up (8)

10.1 What efforts will be organized to clean up the beaches?

Clean-up efforts will be ongoing as long as tarballs are present on Florida beaches. Cleanup is conducted by beach-cleaning machinery and individuals trained in handling hazardous materials. Residents and visitors should not handle or try to clean up oil residue. Residents and visitors wishing to help should go to <http://www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org/> or simply go to www.VolunteerFlorida.org and click "Register to Help"

8.2 Can I still fish in waters that have an oily sheen on it?

Do not harvest and eat fish with oily residue, fish that have a petroleum odor or dead fish. The DEP Deepwater Horizon Response website www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com will post information on fish advisories and closures. In addition, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' website, <http://www.fl-seafood.com/> provides up-to-date information on Florida's fisheries, and the Florida Seafood Hotline, 1-800-357-4273, is updated daily at 2:00 PM, and provides information on what state waters are open, Florida's seafood supply, pricing and what seafood is being harvested and available frozen.

8.3 What does the oil that's coming to shore look like?

The majority of impacts to Florida's shoreline were highly weathered, in the form of tar balls, oil sheen, tar mats or mousse – a pudding-like oil/water mixture that could be brown, rust or orange in color. However, Florida's shoreline is not expected to receive additional impacts over the next 72 hours, although sporadic sightings of tar balls may continue. No new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15.

8.4 What are tar balls?

Although sporadic sightings of tar balls may continue for a while, Florida's shoreline is not expected to receive additional impacts over the next 72 hours as no new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15. Tarballs are little, dark-colored pieces of oil that are remnants of oil spills. During the first few hours of a spill, the oil spreads into a thin slick. Winds and waves tear the slick into smaller patches that are scattered over a much wider area. Initially, the lighter components of the oil evaporate but with heavy oil remains behind and mixes with water to form an emulsion that can look like chocolate pudding. This emulsion is much thicker and stickier than the original oil. Winds and waves continue to stretch and tear the oil patches into smaller pieces, or tarballs. While some tarballs may be as large as pancakes, most are coin-sized. Tarballs are very persistent in the marine environment and can travel hundreds of miles.

8.5 Is it harmful to step on the tar balls?

For most people, an occasional brief contact with a small amount of oil, will not do harm but it is recommended that any contact with oil be avoided. If contact occurs, wash the area with soap and water. Avoid using solvents, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel or similar products. Some people are more sensitive to chemicals, including those found in crude oil. These people may develop a

rash or skin irritation or have other allergic reactions. Skin contact with crude oil that lasts a long time can cause skin reddening, swelling, and burning. The Florida Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with DEP and VISIT FLORIDA, has developed an online mapping resource that contains the most up-to-date health information for Florida's beach waters. Visitors are encouraged to visit www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm or www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/. To learn more about the potential health impacts and first aid measures regarding the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, download the Department of Health frequently asked questions at: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/files/faq_doh_051010.pdf

8.9 I've heard that there are tar balls hitting the shore in the Keys. What can you tell me about that?

On Monday, May 17 the US Coast Guard obtained the tar balls found in the Keys and sent the tar balls for analysis to determine if they are related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. On Wednesday, May 19, the Coast Guard received a report that stated the tar balls collected from Fort Zachary Taylor State Park **are not related to the Deepwater Horizon incident**. To view the United States Coast Guard's press release, visit www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doc/586/554303/

In 2008 and 2009 there were 667 and 681 reports respectively of oil and petroleum incidents along Florida's waterways and beaches so this type of occurrence is not as unusual as one might think. Specifically in the Florida Keys (Monroe County) there were 53 incidents in 2008 and 72 incidents in 2009 of oil and petroleum products being reported in their coastal waters.

- Historically, tar balls have washed ashore on a regular basis, and nearby dredging or construction projects have the potential to produce debris which could be mistaken for impacts associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- While not everything that washes onshore may be attributed to Deepwater Horizon, it is recommended that Floridians and travelers report any suspected oil to the State Warning Point by calling 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335), or by dialing #DEP from any wireless device.

For more information regarding Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon incident, please visit www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com

8.6 Who do I contact if I see oil?

To report tarballs or other evidence of oil on Florida's coastline, call (866) 448-5816.

To report oiled or injured animals to the Wildlife Distress Hotline, call (866) 557-1401.

To file a claim with BP call (800) 440-0858.

8.7 What can I do to help/how do I volunteer?

For volunteering opportunities, go to www.VolunteerFlorida.org and click on "Register to Help". Or call the Deepwater Horizon Response Volunteer Request Line at (866) 448-5816. Citizens should not handle or try to clean up oil residue.

8.8 If the oil does get on my boat, how do I clean it?

If traveling through the area by boat, take precautions when hoisting the boat anchor. If oil makes contact with skin, wash it off immediately with soap and water. Recommendations can be found on cleaning at www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com under Resources. The Coast Guard is working to establish decontamination sites for vessels and we will have more information on that as it becomes available. A new website, created by BP, lists vessel decontamination locations within the U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Sector for oiled boats: <http://bpdecon.com>.

8.10 I've heard that oil is hitting Florida Beaches? What can you tell me about that?

Although sporadic sightings of tar balls may continue for a while, Florida's shoreline is not expected to receive additional impacts over the next 72 hours as no new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15. A recent interagency report indicates that the majority of the oil has been removed either by natural means or via cleanup efforts. The remaining 26% is either on the shore and has been collected or buried, OR is still in the water as sheen and weathered tar products. Link to the full report at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com> under the Florida Deepwater Horizon Response dated 8/5/2010. There have been no reports of Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill-related oil reaching the shore beyond the northwest Florida region and there is currently no indication that the rest of the state will have impacts from weathered oil products. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced on July 30, 2010 that a new analysis shows Southern Florida, the Florida Keys, and the East Coast are unlikely to experience any effects from the remaining oil on the surface of the Gulf and that the remaining surface oil is hundreds of miles away from the loop current and in the process of degrading. (To view NOAA's press release on this visit, <http://app.restorethegulf.gov/go/doc/2931/835719/>). For additional information, on the oil spill in general, check the Deepwater Response updates at www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com.

Recreation (9)

9.1 I have deep sea fishing reservations off of Florida's coast; will they still be going out?

Check with the service you made your reservation with but most likely your trip will not be affected. Governor Crist announced that The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has reopened previously closed coastal state waters offshore of Escambia County to the harvest of saltwater fish. The FWC closed this area on June 14 as a precautionary measure due to possible impacts of oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The FWC is reopening this 23-mile area because careful laboratory analysis of fish from the area confirms they are safe and oil-free. The sampling and laboratory analyses were conducted under the supervision of the United States Food and Drug Administration and NOAA. The fish tested passed all standards for safe consumption. Oil has not been observed in the closed area of state waters for some time and was being closely monitored by state officials using aerial over-flights and visual observations on the water. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/> or at <http://myfwc.com/OilSpill/index.htm>. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' website, <http://www.fl-seafood.com/> provides up-to-date information on Florida's fisheries, and the Florida Seafood Hotline, 1-800-357-4273, is updated daily at 2:00 PM, and provides information on what state waters are open, Florida's seafood supply, pricing and what seafood is being harvested and available frozen.

9.2 Are state parks opened/closed?

All of Florida's state parks are open for the public to enjoy. If any parks were to experience a closure, information would be posted at www.FloridaStateParks.org or www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com under "Closures". Visitors with camping or cabin reservations will be notified if their stay will be impacted by the oil in the Gulf. If you have additional questions about your reservation, you may call 1-850-245-2157.

9.3 Can I swim in Gulf waters?

DOH and DEP are closely monitoring health and environmental impacts to Florida. DOH, in coordination with county governments issues *Oil Impact Notices* for any affected areas. These notices provide information for the general public to make decisions on whether to avoid entering beach waters, or continue to enjoy above high tide line beach activities. Oil Impact Notices are posted for all Escambia County and Walton County Gulf beaches, as well as designated beaches in Okaloosa County. Signs may remain in place until local authorities determine that beaches are no longer impacted by the oil spill.

To see where Oil Impact Notices have been issued, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm. Additional travel information can be found at www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/.

9.4 I'm a boater. Can I still go boating?

Vessels should avoid pockets of heavy black oil to ensure safe navigation. A new website, created by BP, lists vessel decontamination locations within the U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Sector for oiled boats: <http://bpdecon.com>. No new oil has been discharged from the Deepwater Horizon well since July 15. Florida's shoreline is not expected to receive additional impacts over the next 72 hours, although sporadic sightings of tar balls may continue.

Fraud/Economic Impact (11)

11.1 Who should I contact about reporting fraud or scams related to the oil spill?

The Attorney General's fraud hotline is open to receive any reports of fraud or price gouging. The hotline is 1-866-966-7226. For tips citizens can use to protect themselves from fraud, or to file a complaint on-line please visit the Attorney General's Deepwater Horizon Response web site at <http://myfloridalegal.com/deepwaterhorizon>. The Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner gas price-gouging hotline is also operational. The toll-free hotline number is 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352).

11.2 Who should I contact if I want to file a claim related to the oil spill?

Coastal businesses should make loss of earnings claims for damages incurred as a result of the oil spill. BP has opened 10 claims offices in Florida. Visit the BP Claims page at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/claims.htm> to learn more. To discuss spill related damage with BP representatives, please call the BP Claims Reporting Line at 1-800-440-0858. For information to assist in submitting a claim, visit the Attorney General's web site at <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/> and click on the "Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Resources" link or you may call 1-850-413-3089 or toll-free 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (1-877-693-5236).

11.3 Are there any jobs available related to the oil incident?

On June 17, Governor Crist unveiled Florida Gulf Recovery Jobs, a website that allows job seekers to locate and apply for positions created in response to the Deepwater Horizon incident.

Please visit the website at <http://gulfrecoveryjobs.employflorida.com/portals/gulfrecoveryjobs/>
or call the Florida Gulf Recovery Jobs Help Desk toll free at 877-362-5034.