

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Public Information**

**Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government  
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness  
May 27, 2010-10:00AM  
Contact Information: Ben Walker 985-873-6357**

**Terrebonne Parish Information**

1) Coast Guard representatives in Cocodrie reported:

- Skimmer boats will be working in Terrebonne Bay in a 5 across north to south pattern to maximize efficiency and remove as much oil as possible.
- Crews working on boom maintenance for islands: Trinity, Wine, Whiskey and Raccoon.
- Beach cleaning operation continues on Trinity Island
- ongoing boom inventory in Cocodrie staging area.
- Shoreline cleanup of inland areas in north Lake Barre'.
- crews are loading the jack-up rig with supplies and equipment for deployment .
- personnel has increased from 500 to 529 people working out of Cocodrie staging area
- the number of boats has increased from 50 to 69 working from Cocodrie staging area.

2) Oil impact reports:

- A) Public Works and Engineering reports that there is thick oil in Whiskey Pass with 10-20% density coverage by quarter sized brown oil globules.
- B) Sheen with periodic clumps of reddish/orange oil was reported in Caillou Boca behind Raccoon Island.
- C) New report of oil with minor impact (less than 1%) on an unnamed island in Bay Sainte Elaine.

3) Vessels of Opportunity Program:

- A) We have been informed by ICP Houma that there have been instances where local Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) or their crews that have been called to duty did not report for duty as requested and/or scheduled. Please inform the VOO boats and crews in your parish that once contacted they need to report.
- B) In some cases after the vessels were called to work, not enough vessels and/or crew members showed up to deploy the Taskforce.

C) There is also a need for additional trained personnel to man crew boats and support boats. These crew members need only have the Hazmat training that has been provided to the boat crews in your parish.

D) Your assistance in getting the word out to the Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) and crew members in your parish is greatly appreciated.

E) Anyone interested in applying to becoming a Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) or crew member should call 281-366-5511.

### **Information from British Petroleum**

1) The top-kill operation is underway with mud being pumped rapidly into the well head. The mud pump involved in the top-kill has 30,000 horsepower used to shove between 40 to 50 barrels of mud per minute into the well. **USCG ADMIRAL THAD ALLEN NOW REPORTING THAT THE TOP-KILL OPERATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN STOPPING OIL FROM SEEPING FROM THE WELL.**

2) US Coast Guard pulled all 125 commercial fishing boats from oil cleanup efforts in Breton Sound after several people became ill (nausea, dizziness, headaches, chest pains). 4 people were hospitalized as a result. Medical workers evaluated the crew members as a precaution.

2) Progress continues with the two relief wells.

3) Vessels Of Opportunity: Task Force 8 (25 vessels) scheduled to be active shortly. Task Forces 9 and 10 (additional 50 vessels) are rigging up.

4) Over 12,267 claims processed with a total value of \$17,219,782.

5) Over 1,618 Vessels of Opportunity secured (available) in Louisiana.

6) Over 297 Vessels of Opportunity in Task Force fleet and several are being used by Wildlife & Fisheries.

### Helpful Information

#### British Petroleum Claims Center

BP has opened the following claims centers in Terrebonne to process claims for those who have lost

income due to the recent spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

1. **814 Grand Caillou Rd. Suites 2 & 3- Plaza Caillou Shopping Center - (8:00 AM and 7:00 PM, seven days a week).**
2. **5703 Highway 56, Chauvin - (7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, seven days a week).**

Those wishing to seek claims should bring photo identification as well as all necessary documentation to verify income from previous years.

BP has set up a toll free hotline. For oil spill related damage claims call 1-800-440-0858.

#### Department of Social Services

A temporary Food Stamp distribution center has been set up at the Chauvin Senior Center to take applications for their regular program. This is **not** emergency food stamps. Applications will be taken from 8:00 am to 3:00pm Monday through Friday until further notice. For more information call the main office at 857-3620.

#### SBA

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has also opened an office on **the first floor of the Government Tower located at 8026 Main Street**. Their operating hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

The Small Business Administration is taking applications for low-interest loans. This program is available to Louisiana Gulf Coast small businesses suffering financial losses related to the BP oil spill. Contact SBA's customer service center at 1-800-659-2955 for further details.

#### LIHEAP

Funds are available to assist persons with a utility disconnect notice. Call 985-873-6817 for more information.

#### Crisis Rent and Mortgage Assistance

Persons that have been laid off or suffered a reduction in work hours may qualify for assistance with delinquent mortgage or rental payments. Documentation of need and household income is required to determine eligibility. For more information call 985-873-6817.

#### Beautiful Beginnings Center

The Beautiful Beginnings Center provides temporary shelter to eligible families with children. To be considered eligible families must be considered homeless. Parents must be working or willing to gain employment. Call 985-580-8105 for more information.

### Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

Both Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services and START Corporation are providing homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services which includes, but is not limited to, rental assistance, utility deposits and utility payments.

Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services - 985-851-4488  
START Corporation - 985-879-3966

### Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Regular unemployment benefits are available to qualified individuals who have lost their job due to the oil spill. For more information call 866-783-5567 or visit their website at [www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net).

### Crisis Counseling

Counseling is available to those affected by the oil spill through the Terrebonne Mental Health Center. They can be contacted at 985-857-3615. Crisis counseling is also available through the Center for Child and Family Development at 985-873-7221 and Options for Independence at 985-876-8630.

### Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) (aka Disaster Food Stamps)

There is a public information campaign making people aware that all low- to moderate-income Louisianians may be eligible for **Disaster Food Stamp** benefits in the event of a natural disaster and should pre-apply now for benefits online or by phone. Current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients do not need to pre-apply and would receive disaster benefits automatically. Please visit online at [dss.louisiana.gov](http://dss.louisiana.gov) or call 1-888-524-3578.

