

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government

Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

May 28, 2010-4:00PM

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Terrebonne Parish Information

1) Coast Guard representatives in Cocodrie reported:

- 9 skimmers were in the field yesterday working in the Cocodrie area.

- Beach cleaning operation is complete on Trinity Island as reported by National Guard Shoreline Cleanup crew reported that the sand bags were approximately 35 yards from the shore line on the beach near Trinity Bayou. No water appeared to be flowing from the gulf through Trinity Bayou.

- Ongoing boom inventory in Cocodrie staging area. Large quantities of boom received in past 24 hours.

- Shoreline cleanup includes 3 airboats and 13 vessels with absorbent boom working inland areas in north Lake Barre'.

- crews are loading the jack-up rig with supplies and equipment for deployment .

- personnel has increased from 560 to 1000 people working out of Cocodrie staging area.

- Boats are being docked on Raccoon Island indefinitely to increase response range.

- Shoreline Cleanup team reported from Little Pass that approximately 1000' of containment boom was free floating, or possibly unanchored. Boom remediation team assigned.

- East Bay Barbue was previously reported as having impacted shoreline. Shoreline Cleanup crew reported that no oil appeared to be coming out of the marsh such as previously noted. A slight sheen and impacted Spartina grass was noted.

- Jack-up Barges being deployed and strategically located in area of operations.

2) Oil impact reports:

- A) Shoreline Cleanup team reported from Whiskey Pass that no oil was spotted in the area or on the trip from West Timbalier to Whiskey Pass.

- B) Tar balls were observed on the surface mixed in with silver sheen approximately 2 miles north of Little Pass. There was, however, no oil observed by crews in Little Pass itself.

C) Oil impact was reported in the Lake Raccourci area by Wildlife and Fisheries.

D) Shoreline Cleanup team reported oil 6-12 feet wide on the gulf beach side of East Timbalier island along the high tide line.

E) Shoreline Cleanup team reported from 2 miles south of Wine Island that there were small patches of oil on the surface. Mixed in with the oil was some oiled marsh grass, Spartina, and other floating debris. It was identified as not being dense enough to immediately require a skimmer.

3) Vessels of Opportunity Program:

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

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.

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 or call 1-888-524-3578.