

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government

Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

June 18, 2010-4:00PM

Contact Information: Ben Walker 985-873-6357

Terrebonne Parish Information

1) Coast Guard representatives in Cocodrie reported:

- A large percentage of the protection boom currently in place are in offshore positions and are currently boomed with either 18 or 20 inch harbor boom meant for protected waters. This is hampering both the ability to maintain proper protection/placement of the boom and is a resource drain to re-set the majority of all booms on a daily basis.
- Total personnel in Cocodrie: 744
- National Incident Commander reports that the daily average oil recovery remains at an estimated 15,000 barrels per day.
- Heat continues to be an issue with over 105 degree heat index.
- Cleanup crews have picked up 67 barrels of oily water, 45 yards of trash and 68 yards of oiled debris in the last 24 hours out of Cocodrie.
- The offloading ship Q4000 made the connection to the well on Wednesday.
- There was a safety stand down of the vacuum barges on Wednesday due to Coast Guard inspections. Numerous public officials expressed their aggravation regarding work being delayed including Governor Bobby Jindal.
- There were numerous members of the media scheduled to visit Cocodrie today including representatives from Slate, the New Yorker, Discovery and National Geographic.
- Solid and liquid waste generated at Cocodrie is transported to Class 1 landfills in either Sorrento or Avondale.
- Water sampling tests are being conducted in Timbalier Bay including Pierle Bay, Devil's Bay, Belle Pass and Casse Tete Island.

Boats/Vessels

- Deployment of Skimmers:
 - 7 total:
 - 1 between Wine and Trinity.
 - 2 on station behind Timbalier Bay.
 - 4 in Lake Barre and Terrebonne Bay.

- 139 boats on site assisting with cleanup in Cocodrie.

Assignments:

Surveillance:	2
Decontamination:	3
Task Forces 1-3:	108
Recovery:	<u>26</u>
	139 Total

Boom

· Boom Inventory:

A) Boom ≤ 35 inches:	
1) Deployed Today:	7,035'
2) Total Deployed:	171,178'
B) Boom ≥ 35 inches:	
1) Deployed Today:	0
2) Total Deployed:	16,575'
C) Sorbent	
1) Deployed Today:	2,000'
2) Total Deployed:	97,891'

- Sheriff's Office Water Patrol reported that substandard boom deployment was observed in Belle Pass from Fourchon to East Timbalier Island. If done properly, boom in this location could prevent oil intrusion into Terrebonne Parish through Lake Raccourci.

- Boom Maintenance continues to make up the majority of the operations being conducted out of Cocodrie.

- Boom maintenance is being conducted at all sites in Terrebonne Parish, with an emphasis on our barrier islands.

- Boom crews are removing 18 inch and 24 inch boom from rock jetties and the beach on Trinity Island and Raccoon Island.

- Assessment team observed 2 shrimp boats, 3 crew boats and 3 john boats all picking up and loading containment boom that had broken free and was stranded in Wine Island Pass.

Cleanup Progress

- Continued beach reconnaissance and manual recovery of discovered oil.
- Clean up continues onshore.
- Assessment Team reported 20 personnel on a barge stationed at Trinity Island. There are an additional 36 personnel available for deployment if needed.

2) Oil impact reports:

- Marine Spill Recovery Company representatives reported some weathered oil near Wine Island.
- Assessment team traveled north on the Houma Navigation Canal through Bayou Rambio and Sister Lake to Raccoon Point and then continued on the bay side of Raccoon Island. The team then proceeded to Whiskey Island. From there, they proceeded to Trinity Island. For all above locations there was no visible oil and no visible sheen observed.

3) Vessels of Opportunity Program:

- Anyone interested in applying to becoming a Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) or crew member should call 281-366-5511.
- The BP Annex (*located at 5703 Hwy. 56 in Chauvin*) will host Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) training sessions on Saturday, June 23, at 9am and 2pm.

Helpful Information

Training Opportunities for Deck Hands and Beach Clean-up Workers

Local training sessions have been scheduled for residents interested in becoming employed for the response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Residents interested in working on a beach clean-up crew or as a deck hand on a vessel responding to the spill can attend this free training. Training organizers on site will provide information on how to seek employment in these fields.

Each location will feature two training sessions per day with the morning training at 9:00 A.M. and the afternoon training beginning at 2:00 P.M. The training location schedule is as follows:

The Grand Isle Community Center (*located at 3811 Hwy. 1 in Grand Isle*) will host training sessions on Saturday June 19.

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.