

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information

**Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
July 2, 2010 – 4:00 pm
Contact Information: Ben Walker 985-873-6357**

Terrebonne Parish Information

Coast Guard representatives in Cocodrie reported:

- Total personnel in Cocodrie: 639

- National Incident Commander reports that the oil recovery for the last 24 hours is greater than 25,000 barrels.

Weather

Today - Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 89. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tonight - Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly before 7pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 77. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Saturday - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. East northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night - Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. East northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Boats/Vessels

- Deployment of Skimmers:
 - 11 total
 - 3 Marco Open Water Skimmers
 - 5 Portable Drum Skimmers
 - 3 MSRC Open Water Near shore Skimmers

- 67 boats on site assisting with cleanup in Cocodrie.

Boom

- Boom Inventory:
 - Boom $\leq 35''$:
 - Deployed Today: 2,400'
 - Total Deployed: 174,115'
 - Boom $\geq 35''$:
 - Deployed Today: 0
 - Total Deployed: 10,159'
 - Sorbent Boom:
 - Deployed Today: 8,080'
 - Total Deployed: 90,527'

Cleanup Progress

- Clean harbors continue to retrieve and clean-up oil with absorbent material, rakes & shovels etc. in Bayou Petite Caillou, Bay Timbour, and Lake Pelto.
- Skimmers continue to skim and retrieve oil in Cat Island Pass, Little Pass, Terrebonne Bay, and Lake Barre
- Cocodrie will continue to increase their response as the weather allows.

Confirmed Oil impact:

- Assessment team reports the following:
 - Performed a walk-through of West Timbalier Island, observed tar balls and oil pancakes ranging in size from a pinhead to 2" in diameter. Coverage of the re-worked tar balls behind the rock jetty was estimated at about 40% over 3 yards.
 - Performed a walk-through of Brush Island and observed minimal oil impact and coated Spartina in the eastern corner of the tidal cut along the western facing portion of the island. The coated Spartina was approximately 6" above the water's surface.
 - Performed a walk-through of Trinity Island, from Trinity Bayou to 1.5 miles eastward, observed moderate to heavy brownish-red oil impact along the beach. Observed four surf lines of oil emulsion on the lower beach. The oil impact appeared to be lighter on the west side of Trinity Island.

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 in Pointe Aux Chene*) will host a Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) training session on Saturday, July 3, at 9am.

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.

Free Consumer Assistance Hotline Still Available for Gulf Oil Spill Victims

The free consumer legal assistance hotline, established as a joint effort between the LSBA and the Louisiana Civil Justice Center, is still available for victims of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The hotline assists callers seeking lawyer referrals, general legal information, details about what lawyers can and cannot do to promote their services, and what steps to take if confronted with unethical solicitation by an attorney. The hotline can be accessed at (504)355-0970 or (800)310-7029, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Assistance also is available to Spanish-speaking callers. For more information on the hotline, go to: <http://www.lsba.org/tw/>

