

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information

**Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
July 16, 2010-4:00PM
Contact Information: Ben Walker 985-873-6357**

Terrebonne Parish Information

1) Coast Guard representatives in Cocodrie reported:

- Total personnel in Cocodrie: 1174
- National Incident Commander reports that the oil recovery for the last 24 hours is 25,000 barrels.
- Heat continues to be an issue with 105-108 degree heat index.
- A jack-up barge has been staged behind Whiskey Island to assist with cleanup of the barrier islands.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Scattered showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the upper 70s. East winds around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Scattered showers and thunderstorms in the morning...then numerous showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 90. South winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Saturday Night...Partly cloudy. Scattered showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the upper 70s. Southeast winds to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Scattered showers and thunderstorms in the morning...then numerous showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 90. South winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Boats/Vessels

- 16 Skimmers in Cocodrie.
- 136 boats on site assisting with cleanup in Cocodrie.

Boom

- Boom Inventory:
 - Boom $\leq 35''$:
 - Deployed Today: 2100
 - Total Deployed: 246,813'
 - Boom $\geq 35''$:
 - Deployed Today: 0
 - Total Deployed: 10,109'
 - Sorbent Boom:
 - Deployed Today: 3800'
 - Total Deployed: 1,195,088'

- Sorbent boom is now only being used on oil impacted areas.

Cleanup Progress

- Continued beach reconnaissance and manual recovery of discovered oil.

 - All recovery operations are to follow the general shoreline treatment recommendations established for Timbalier Bay and Terrebonne Bay.

 - Cleanup crews working on Bay Timbour, Whiskey Island, Trinity Island, Wine Island, Raccoon Island, Bayou Petit Caillou, and Lake Pelto.

 - An OSU is being staged north of Raccoon Island to support the cleanup of Whiskey Island, to resupply cleanup crews, and to serve as safe harbor in case of inclement weather.
- 2) Oil impact reports:
- Assessment team reports the following:
 - No new oil to report.
- 3) Vessels of Opportunity Program:
- Anyone interested in applying to becoming a Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) or crew member should call 281-366-5511.
- 4) Fishing Closures:
- Yielding to a groundswell from the recreational fishing community, which pointed out that tests were not showing contamination of fish in the closed areas, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on Wednesday lifted the ban on sports fishing in most areas closed because of the oil spill. The exception is in areas that are heavily oiled and where cleanup is taking place.

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.

