

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information

**Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
July 26, 2010-4:00PM
Contact Information: Ben Walker 985-873-6357**

Terrebonne Parish Information

1) Coast Guard representatives in Cocodrie reported:

- Redeployment of assets assisting with cleanup efforts will be complete Tuesday July 27.
- New oil has been reported on Trinity Island, Whiskey Island and West Timbalier Island.
- Please join us for the Coastal Care Fair in Houma: Tuesday, July 27 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Terrebonne Parish Library, East Houma Branch, 778 Grand Caillou Road
The Coastal Care Fair will include:

- **Health screenings**
- **Children's activities and entertainment**
- **Job opportunity information**
- **Social service programs**
- **Public health information**
- **Wellness information and stress management workshops**
- ***And more***

Weather

Tonight: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly before 7pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 78. South wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 77. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 93. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Boats/Vessels

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

Boom

- Boom Inventory:
 - Boom $\leq 35''$:
 - Deployed Today: 100
 - Total Deployed: 262,286'
 - Boom $\geq 35''$:
 - Deployed Today: 0
 - Total Deployed: 10,109'
 - Sorbent Boom:
 - Deployed Today: 200'
 - Total Deployed: 1,181,078'
- 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.
- Inclement weather has restricted over-flights and operations in Cocodrie today.

2) Oil impact reports:

- Assessment team reports the following:
 - New oil has been observed on Trinity Island, Whiskey Island, and West Timbalier Island.

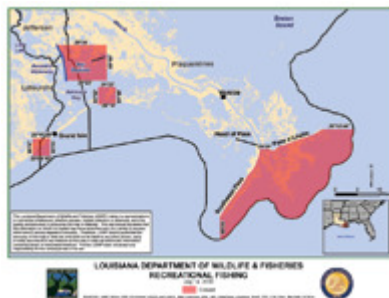
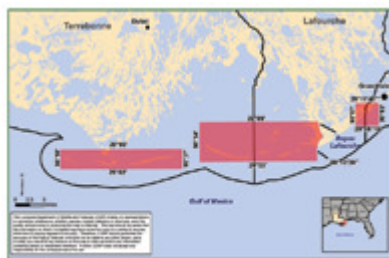
3) Vessels of Opportunity Program:

- 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.
- The ban on commercial fishing in oiled areas has not been changed but may be lifted next week, a state official said. The decision does not change closures in federally managed waters, the open Gulf three miles south of the Louisiana coast.
- Any reports of oil sighted by recreational fishermen need to be accompanied by latitude and longitude.

The only closures that remain are mapped below.





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.