

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information

**Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
July 28, 2010-4:00PM
Contact Information: Ben Walker 985-873-6357**

Terrebonne Parish Information

1) Coast Guard representatives in Cocodrie reported:

- Operations are back up and running.
- Cleanup and boom maintenance are the crews' top priorities.

Weather

Thursday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 95. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 77. West wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Partly sunny and hot, with a high near 96. Heat index values as high as 109. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Friday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 80. Northwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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.

2) Oil impact reports:

- Assessment team reports the following:
 - New oil Little Pass and Cat Island Pass and behind Trinity Island and Whiskey Island consisting of small patches of floating oil.

- Assessment Team conducted a survey of Whiskey Island, and found that the oil reported on Monday had been covered up with sand and was not readily visible.
- Reported from the eastern Bay side of West Timbalier Island, that assessment team observed oil-impacted marsh, back up to 10'. The team observed oil-coated Spartina, mangroves, and mangrove roots. The marsh was impacted all along the shoreline, approximately 300 yards. This oil impact was likely from the oil that was reported on Friday, and was more extensive than the previously reported impact 3 weeks ago.
- Assessment Team conducted several loops behind Raccoon Island, and observed no visible oil and no visible sheen.
- Reported from 2 miles inside the Bay side of Whiskey Pass, that assessment team observed a heavy density ribbon of oil on the current line at this location. The current line extended at least ½ mile and included Sargasso and 10" oil patches. The oil was observed as skimmable, and was trending in a northerly direction.

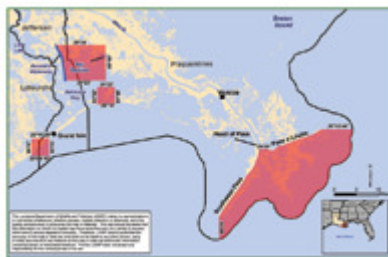
3) Vessels of Opportunity Program:

- 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.

