

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government

Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

June 21, 2010-4:00PM

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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: 714
- 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 21 barrels of oily water, 30 yards of trash and 15 yards of oiled debris in the last 24 hours out of Cocodrie.
- The vacuum barges are still in Empire, now awaiting LA 1 approval.
- There were numerous members of the media scheduled to visit Cocodrie today including representatives from The Daily Beast, European Press Photo Agency, an ABC affiliate from Knoxville, TN and Russian State TV.

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:	4,675'
2) Total Deployed:	170,953'
B) Boom ≥ 35 inches:	
1) Deployed Today:	0
2) Total Deployed:	10,123'
C) Sorbent	
1) Deployed Today:	1,600'
2) Total Deployed:	87,663'

· 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.

· On Trinity Island 1,125 feet of 18 and 24 inch inflatable boom and 1,400 feet of 18 and 24 inch hard boom was recovered in boom maintenance operations.

· 6 boats were on Last Island to inspect deployed boom. It was determined that no maintenance was needed.

- Reported from Wine Island that containment boom along the southeast side of the island had moderate damage. 2 work boats, 2 safety boats and 7 large shrimp boats were on location in efforts to repair the damaged boom.
- Reported that 10 to 12 large shrimp boats carrying containment boom were docked on the northeast side of West Timbalier Island.
- Assessment team observed 10 boats deploying and maintaining absorbent boom on Lake Barbue near Lake Chien.

Cleanup Progress

- Continued beach reconnaissance and manual recovery of discovered oil.
- Clean up continues onshore.
- All recovery operations are to follow the general shoreline treatment recommendations established for Timbalier Bay and Terrebonne Bay.
- Assessment Team reported that Trinity Island had been cleaned up very well and looked good.

2) Oil impact reports:

- Assessment team observed no visible oil and no visible sheen in Lake Barre'.
- No visible oil and no visible sheen were observed in Wine Island Pass or in Cat Island Pass.
- There was a tidal rip current line containing white-tan colored emulsified oil mousse, approximately 6 feet wide and 100 yards long, 1 mile south of Little Pass. 2 large shrimp boats containing containment boom were observed nearby.
- An assessment team sent in response to reports of new oil during a morning over-flight reported no visible oil and no visible sheen on Trinity Island.
- No oil was observed on the east corner of West Timbalier Island. Old oil deposits from approximately 3 weeks ago still had not been cleaned. There were still large areas with oil impact at the wash through on the island. The oiled areas were approximately 2 feet wide and 40-50 yards long.
- No visible oil and no visible sheen were observed in Cat Island Pass.

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.