



Pinellas County EM
FACT SHEET
NEW INFORMATION IN BOLD PRINT

Fact Sheet #11	Event: Deep Water Horizon	Date/Time: 7/16/2010, 3:00 pm
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Deepwater Horizon is a “National Contingency Plan” event, where the responsible party is obligated to bear the burden of response costs. That being said, this is an unprecedented event and operational and funding processes are being developed as it evolves. Pinellas County Emergency Management (PCEM), Environmental Management, Communications, Volunteer Services, Parks Dept, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Economic Development, Health Department, Management & Budget, and Solid Waste are working together and with the State and the USCG to monitor and plan for possible operations within our County, as well as review other possible options based on northern county operations. This includes daily State Conference Calls, weekly conference calls with the USCG Sector St. Petersburg (SSP), and various other conference calls and meetings. State conference call notes are being shared daily with City EM Coordinators.

SITUATION

- **A newly installed cap on the well site appears to be working to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf. Further testing remains to be done to verify its integrity and long-term effectiveness.**
- Admiral Allen, USCG, appointed a deputy incident commander position as part of a four-person incident management team into the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee so the federal government can reduce the turnaround time to actually approve action, or delegate authority, to get the job done. USCG has appointed Commander Joe Boudrow as the Deputy Incident Commander for Florida.
- The Florida Peninsula Command Post (FPCP) continues to operate from Miami to provide a command and control structure to plan and deliver oil spill preparedness and response activities across the Florida Peninsula should they be needed. The SSP continues as a Branch of the FPCP in Miami.
- There are reports of a scam involving individuals falsely representing themselves as BP employees and offering applicants training and promising job placement for a fee. BP does not charge to train and hire applicants. If you or someone you know has been charged for training, please contact law enforcement. All training offered by BP is paid for by BP. BP also pays any fees for classes or registration.
- There are no plans to use dispersants in Florida. If they are ever considered in state waters, the determination to use the chemical would be evaluated by DEP with input from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Florida Research Institute and the EPA.
- An email address has been set up to allow local government entities (counties, cities, water management districts, etc.) to submit claims information: governmentclaims@worleyco.com

REPORTS AND PREDICTIONS:

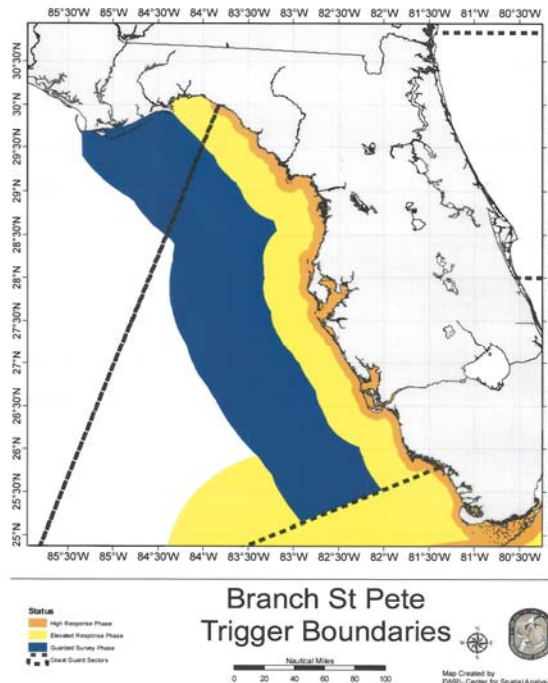
- **“NOAA Models Long-Term Oil Threat to Gulf and East Coast Shoreline” gives descriptive and graphic oil impact probabilities for Florida’s coastline. Current projections estimate a 1 to 20% chance of DW oil impacting Pinellas County:**
http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100702_longterm.html.
- There have been no reports of Deepwater Horizon oil spill-related oil products reaching the shore beyond the northwest Florida region. **This website has the results of daily over flights, showing trajectories and distances from SSP:** <http://share4.myfwc.com/seoilspill/default.aspx>.
- Reconnaissance missions are being coordinated daily from the State EOC using air, land, and sea assets from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Civil Air Patrol, and the Florida National Guard.

- If oil is sighted on Florida’s coastline report it to the State Warning Point (SWP) at 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335) or by dialing #DEP from most cell phones.

STRATEGY & PLANS:

- Booming strategies with Pinellas and other area counties have been completed by Environmental Management and SeaGrant staff, as well as Florida DEP to be sure all environmentally sensitive areas have been identified. The booming strategy focuses on environmentally sensitive areas – as identified and recently updated in the USCG Area Contingency Plan (ACP). Those critically sensitive areas in the plan will be protected via BP contractors. Estuaries and inlets are at the top of the list, not the beach areas. This is to protect sensitive habitats that support wildlife and fish. Strategy for beaches is that, if impacted, they will be cleaned by BP contractors. The reason for this is that booming is ineffective in open water areas of beaches due to the winds and currents over one knot. Go to: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/oilspill/area-contingency-plan.htm> for links to maps.

Florida Peninsula Command Post (FPCP) Monitoring, Survey and Response Trigger Guide Sector St. Petersburg (SSB) - Operations	
Status	Trigger
Base Monitoring Phase	No confirmed DH tar balls or other oil product. Remote sensing (or other NOAA indicators) of oil at 94 mile trigger line or further.
Guarded Survey Phase	NOAA 72 Hour (nearshore or offshore) trajectory uncertainty boundary is at or inside 94 mile trigger line. Remote sensing (or other NOAA indicators) of DH tar balls or other oil product within 94 miles of SSB AOR shorelines
Elevated Response Phase	DH tar balls or other oil product observed near shore within 94 mi. trigger line. Remote sensing (or other NOAA projections) of DH tar balls or other oil product <30 miles or approx 3 days.
High Response Phase	DW tar balls or other oil product observed within 6 mi or shoreline. Confidence that oil/sheen will be on shore within 1 day.
Action Response Phase	DH tar balls or other product on shore.



- The USCG has notified us that the ‘decision point’ for moving from planning mode to operations will be reached when the NOAA 72 hr line of uncertainty infringes within 94 miles of the shoreline. Unified

Command (UC) will use the best available data (trajectories, product type, projected shoreline impact, etc) to determine if resources should be staged and/or deployed. It does not mean that UC will automatically go operational. Prior forecast infringements have turned out to be unfounded after observation flights indicated that the light transparent sheen was well off shore. Additionally, these sheens have been entrained in the loop eddy moving south and then west while dissipating. It should be noted that UC is looking at six days or more from 'decision point' if the oil was moving due east at a rapid rate. The best science still indicates that the threat to the west coast of Florida remains low (1 – 20%).

- SSP is working with counties to develop operational data should we need to shift from “monitor” to “response” mode.
- The County obtained Training FAQs for all who want to become BP employees. Training is being scheduled by BP county by county – moving down the coast. Hernando started training on July 8. Pinellas is working to obtain a timeline for our training to start. See file attached to this email for Training FAQs.
- It should be noted that ANY protective or response operations undertaken without coordination and approval from the State and/or BP will not be considered for reimbursement. All proposed work is submitted to the State & USCG through the County Emergency Management office, in coordination with PCEM.
- Perspective: In 2008 and 2009 there were, respectively, 667 and 681 reports of oil and petroleum incidents along Florida’s waterways and beaches. Reports of these types are not as unusual as one might think. Specifically in the Florida Keys (Monroe County), there were 53 incidents in 2008 and 72 incidents in 2009 of oil and petroleum products being reported in their coastal waters.
- SCAT (Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique): The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) SW District Office is developing a plan for oil cleanup for this district. This response plan is designed to respond to the unique level of oiling and characteristics of any affected wetlands. NOAA developed the SCAT with those concepts in mind. Steps in the SCAT process include; conduct a shoreline survey, divide the shoreline into segments and assign teams to develop cleanup guidelines and endpoints, submit reports with sketches to the Planning Section, monitor the cleanup, post cleanup inspections and evaluate the clean up activities. SCAT teams are very active recovering tar balls in the northern Gulf waters for testing and evaluation.
- As of July 7, DEM & DEP opened Florida’s first Branch Office. The Escambia/Santa Rosa branch office brings together members of BP, USCG, FDEP, FDEM, as well as county representatives to more quickly and efficiently coordinate the deployment of assets such as reconnaissance teams, skimmers, cleanup crews, vessels of opportunity (VOO), and wildlife response teams. The branch office team will be under the joint tactical direction of Coast Guard Deputy Incident Commander Joseph Boudrow and BP Deputy Incident Commander Mary Shafer Malicki, located in the SEOC.
- STATE EOC TOOL OF CHOICE: GATOR (Geospatial Assessment Tool for Operations and Response) <http://map.floridadisaster.org/GATOR/>. This is rapidly becoming the tool of choice for the SEOC. It is very user friendly.

RUMOR CONTROL:

- **FAQs - Pinellas County Communications created a FAQ document that is posted at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/oilspill/default.htm>. This factual information is valuable for all county and municipal officials in answering questions from their constituents.**
- Methane Gas Story – There is a rumor going around that the Tampa Bay area has an evacuation plan in the event that the methane gas from the oil spill becomes concentrated in the Tampa Bay area. There is no concentration of methane gas (which is non-toxic) and we have no plans to evacuate the Tampa Bay Region.

- Evacuation of the Entire Gulf Coast Area – There is another rumor that the U.S. Army is moving troops into the Gulf coast area from Texas to Florida to prepare to evacuate the coastal population. This is due to additional oil leaks in the floor of the Gulf started by the Deepwater Horizon leak. This is also not true.
- In an article in the Veterans Today magazine (6/23/10) a reporter, Maryann Tobin of the Examiner.com, reported that FEMA has plans in place for the evacuation of the Tampa Bay area in the event of a controlled burn of oil threatening to take toxic plumes through Tampa Bay. This is not true.

VOLUNTEERS:

- Volunteers will be used for pre-impact beach clean-up and by not-for-profit wildlife groups.
- Although there is no imminent threat of oil from the Deepwater Horizon event making landfall in Pinellas County, volunteers are needed to register for a pre-oil beach cleanup, if necessary. There is no date or time for the event; it will be scheduled only if a notification is received from the USCG that oil residue threatens the Pinellas County shoreline. To register for the Special Beach Cleanup, visit www.pinvol.org. Those who register will be notified by e-mail if oil landfall is expected within 48 hours.
- Citizens wishing to volunteer should contact the organization of their choice for Pinellas at the link; <http://www.pinellascounty.org/oilspill2010.htm>.
- Anyone interested in doing actual cleaning of tar from beaches needs to contact the BP Community Line at 866-448-5816. Those who are interested will be trained by BP and will become BP employees.

PINELLAS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Posting information for Pinellas businesses to website (<http://www.pced.org/disaster>) regarding BP claims, State of Florida Emergency Bridge Loans, Small Business Administration Loans, etc. PCED staff ready to help businesses needing assistance with applications for either Bridge Loans or SBA Loans.
- BP has opened a local claims office at 2551 Drew St. in Clearwater. To file an oil spill-related claim, it is recommended that a business first call the BP hotline at (800) 440-0858 to request a claim number. For more information, visit www.BP.com/claims. The BP Claims number, (800) 440-0858, is open 24 hrs a day for businesses/individuals to file claims. The normal business hours have the highest rate of activity so callers are encouraged to utilize off-hour times. Claims info can be found at the website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm#update>. Claimants other than local government entities should refer to the document entitled: “BP Claims Process Guidelines for Individuals and Businesses” for guidance on filing claims.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

- Using state developed guidance the local Department of Health (DOH) has provided the following process for beach closures/health advisories:
- If impact to Pinellas becomes imminent, the DOH, in conjunction with Emergency Mgmt and involved municipalities, will issue an advisory. Through the ‘healthy beaches’ program the DOH has phone numbers and email for each jurisdiction. If an advisory is issued, DOH will advise the media for public distribution.
- At that time the jurisdiction can decide if they want to close their beach or not.
- DOH is currently in a supportive role in the UC center.
- General health information and Tips to Avoid negative health impacts from an oiled shoreline and responder safety can be found at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm>.

TOURISM:

- At www.VISITFLORIDA.COM vacationers are able to view live Twitter feeds and read up to the minute information on the status of any city or region in Florida. Learn more at

<http://www.visitflorida.comtraveladvisory> .

- The County received \$1.15 million from the State BP funds. These resources will effectively double the \$1 million the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has earmarked for summertime advertising in key feeder markets.

BUSINESSES:

- The State of Florida activated their Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to provide emergency, short-term loans to established small businesses in the designated counties, including Pinellas. The loan application opened on June 14, 2010 and information can be at <http://www.floridaoilhelp.com/>. Further information is available at <http://www.ffcfc.com> or by calling (850) 681-3601 or (850) 487-2568. This is in addition to the Small Business Administration (SBA) making Economic Injury loans available to businesses that are part of the Governor's Executive Order. More information can be found at Pinellas County Economic Development's website: http://www.pced.org/demographics_data/subpage.asp?coop or the SBA website at: www.sba.gov Loan applications for economic injury can be filed until the close of business on February 14, 2011.
- FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY WEBSITE: Florida CFO Alex Sink has a webpage allowing Floridians to track state expenditures in response to the Deepwater Horizon event, and to provide transparency in how BP grant dollars are distributed to Florida counties to reimburse their costs in responding to the catastrophe. The webpage is linked from CFO Sink's "Florida's Checkbook" webpage: <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/transparency>.

FISHERIES & SEAFOOD & WILDLIFE:

- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has a toll-free hotline to provide consumers with current information about the status of Florida's open and closed fishing harvest areas, the availability of seafood varieties, and general pricing information. The number is 1-800-357-4273.
- On June 28, NOAA expanded the closed fishing area in the Gulf of Mexico to include portions of the oil slick moving beyond the area's current northern boundary, off the Florida panhandle's federal-state waterline. This boundary was moved eastward to Cape San Blas. This federal closure does not apply to any state waters.
- This leaves more than 66 percent of Gulf federal waters available for fishing.
- A portion of coastal state waters offshore of Escambia County is closed to the harvest of saltwater fish, crabs, and shrimp.
- To report oiled wildlife, please call 1-866-557-1401. For the safety of the public as well as the safety of animals, rescues should only be conducted by trained responders.