

FACT SHEET: COMMUNITY RESPONSE

BP is continuing to work with the U.S. Coast Guard and other federal agencies and contractors to safely and effectively stop the oil flow from the Mississippi Canyon 252 well and to minimize its environmental impact. We are doing absolutely everything in our power to eliminate the source of the leak and contain the environmental impact of the spill. We are determined to fight this spill on all fronts, in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, in the shallow waters, and, if necessary, on the shore.

More than 2,500 people are working in the response effort following the sinking of the Transocean Deepwater Horizon drilling rig. BP's team of operational and technical experts is working in coordination with many federal, state and local government agencies, organizations and companies.

BP, the U.S. Coast Guard and other Federal government agencies have liaised with governors and homeland security and emergency preparedness and environmental protection staff from Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi as well as Texas. In addition, to enhance ongoing coordination, US Coast Guard's local personnel are embedded in each State's Emergency Operations Centers.

Project-specific coastal protection and spill response plans are being implemented consistent with the national, region and state oil spill response plans that are already in place and with input on priority locations from state and local experts.

Onshore preparation is being significantly expanded in case released oil reaches the coast. We have ramped up preparations for a major protection and clean-up effort on the shorelines of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Boom is being deployed with staging taking place from East of Bolivar in Texas to Tampa, Fla. In addition to the incident command post in Robert, La., we are establishing an incident command post in Mobile, Ala., to oversee the onshore response in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

A significant community outreach plan also has been launched in these areas. Outreach to potentially impacted communities includes ongoing communications and engagement with state and local government officials and staff; other community leaders including fishing associations, local businesses, parks, wildlife and environmental organizations, educational institutions, medical/emergency establishments and news media, neighbors of potentially impacted areas and the broader general public.

Working with volunteers

The company is coordinating and deploying thousands of volunteers who are offering their help. These volunteers are considered a critical part of a proactive response to the oil spill. Volunteer activities are focused on clearing the beaches of existing debris. Clearing the beaches prior to a potential oil spill reaching the shoreline and sand advances the efficiency of oil clean-up if necessary.

There are five BP community outreach sites training, preparing and engaging volunteers:

- Pensacola, Florida
- Venice, Louisiana
- Mobile, Alabama
- Pascagoula, Mississippi
- Biloxi, Mississippi

A robust process is in place to assure that:

- The skills of volunteers are put to the most effective use using an assessment process;
- The volunteers are trained in personal safety;
- The volunteers have proper training and certification from the authoritative organizations and companies required by OSHA for shoreline cleaning of oil should it reach the beaches of the four Gulf States at risk: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

We realize that many people want to help with the response effort. We already have requests from thousands of people willing to volunteer to clean up the beaches now and if and when the oil comes to shore. To help organize volunteers we established a phone line for them to call: 866-448-5816.

The U.S. Coast Guard leads the volunteer effort if shoreline cleanup is needed. Shoreline cleanup volunteers must have training including hazardous materials training required by OSHA and EPA. Only volunteers who have been trained and provide appropriate certification are allowed to assist.

Wildlife

To address potential wildlife impacts, BP has contracted with Tri-State Bird and Rescue. Tri-State works with trained and certified volunteers to help recover and clean impacted wildlife. A toll-free number 800-557-1401 has been established to report oiled or injured wildlife. People are urged not to attempt to help injured or oiled animals, but to report any sightings via the toll-free number.

Claims

A claims number also has been established: 1-800-440-0858.