

City of Fairhope.....8/3/10 Oil Spill Response Update

From: Ken Eslava, City of Fairhope Oil Spill Response Point of Contact

- **As I covered yesterday, the Alabama Department of Public Health has lifted swimming advisories for the Dauphin Island, Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach areas. The advisory went from red(no swimming) to yellow, which warns that precautionary measures should be taken to not handle tar balls, avoid oil contact with skin, etc.**
- **During an overflight of the Gulf beaches yesterday by NOAA, beginning at the Chandelier Islands south of Mississippi and ending at Panama City, Florida, there was one report of a single silver sheen patch on the surface of the Gulf waters. This patch, which was approx. 20' X 150', was reported south of Pensacola Pass, about 2-3 miles out into the Gulf.**
- **ADEM(Alabama Department of Environmental Management) operations is reporting:**
 - **Static kill at well head should complete this week**
 - **Following up with Dauphin Island Mayor to discuss removal of HESCO barriers**
 - **Mobile Unified Command continues to review transition(down sizing)plans**
 - **12,100 feet of containment boom removed from Alabama Coast yesterday**
- **Coast Guard is reporting:**
 - **Working on vessel decontamination efforts**
 - **After static kill is complete this week, they plan to move quickly through the transition(down sizing) phases.**
 - **Escorting Secretary Mabus throughout the region today**
- **Alabama Department of Public Health is reporting:**
 - **Working closely with Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources on seafood testing.....in an effort to lift the Catch and Release fishing advisory for Alabama waters.**

- Otherwise, continuing normal operations of seafood oversight and public health issues.
- National Guard is reporting:
 - Normal operations, assisting with claims, security and other normal op's. Still have 237 soldiers on the ground.
- Marine Police is reporting:
 - Continuing normal security operations, monitoring navigable waters where boating restrictions may exist, assisting ADCNR in areas where advisories such as catch & release fishing is still in effect as well as performance of normal operational responsibilities.
- Mobile Unified Command is reporting:
 - Continued review of State of Alabama Transition Plan
 - Boom removal phases 1-4 has been authorized, but Phase 5, which would call for the extraction of the last single layer of boom deployed everywhere in Alabama waters has not yet been authorized. Governor Bob Riley will review the Phase 5 Plan, and only with his concurrence, can this final phase of boom removal begin.
 - 186 Vessels of Opportunity program boats assigned to Alabama waters. Of those, there are 93 working in surveillance and 93 readied to skim oil should it be located.
 - There 35 additional skimmers associated with Inland Water Task Forces available if needed.
 - Summary of claims/claims paid to date:
 - 27,734 property damage claims filed, primarily loss of income**
 - \$57,281,009 in claims paid to date**
 - \$26,107,064 in wage losses**
 - \$2,666,136 Loss of Income(Shrimpers)**
 - \$4,428,729 Loss of Income(Fisherman)**
 - \$2,310,583 Loss of Income(Oysterman)**
 - \$839,451(Crabbers)**

- **The City of Fairhope has sent the Unified Command a letter requesting that BP forces un-deploy their containment boom at the same time that the rest of the Alabama Contingency Plan boom is being removed. By taking advantage of this timing, the City will not have to pay contract forces for the removal of this boom.**

Also, we have requested that this boom be staged nearby, such as the Theodore Staging area, in the case that its' redeployment become necessary. The City remains ready with its Shoreline Protection Plan, which is the second of two phases, should we be threatened by oil or sheen.

The initial phases of boom un-deployment began several weeks ago ahead of Tropical Storm Bonnie, and due to the continued success of the well head cap, has continued since that time. The success of the static kill later this week will trigger a stepped up pace for removing the rest of the boom.

- **The Pier Street Operations Post will likely stay in place through the balance of boom removal phases. Once all boom has been removed, this maintenance operations group will probably disband or be redeployed elsewhere along the coast. We would estimate that all boom could be removed from our immediate area within the next 2-3 weeks.**

So for the time being, Pier Street will remain available for public use between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily, with parking down at the American Legion and Alleman's restaurant.

- **The following are results acquired directly from the U.S. Environmental protection Agency regarding air/water/sediment testing along the Gulf Coast:**

Air.....Air monitoring conducted through July 31, 2010 has found levels of ozone and particulates ranging from "GOOD" to "MODERATE"(unhealthy for sensitive groups) on EPA's Air Quality Index. Some lingering chemicals in the air may cause

short-lived effects like throat irritation, headache, runny eyes, etc.

Water.....Surface water samples collected July 26 & 27, 2010 along the Gulf Coast found oil related components that exceeded chronic and acute aquatic life benchmarks. This level of compounds may cause a risk to aquatic life. Surface water samples collected July 23 along the Gulf Coast were measured for chemicals associated with dispersants, but did not detect them.

Sediment.....Sediment samples collected on July 14 along the Gulf Coast found combined PAH's exceeding chronic water benchmarks. These oil related compounds at this level may cause risk to aquatic life. These same samples were tested for chemicals associated with dispersants, but did not detect them.

END OF UPDATE.....Unless there is breaking news related to this event of great public concern, I will be publishing these updates every other day.