



State of Alabama

Unified Command

Joint Information Center

Mobile, Alabama

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OPENS RECOVERY CENTERS ON GULF COAST

MOBILE--Small Businesses along Alabama's Gulf Coast that have been impacted by the oil spill can now apply for assistance at two centers opening Tuesday, May 18. The Small Business Administration (SBA) will open a center in Mobile County in Bayou LaBatre and a second center in Baldwin County in Gulf Shores.

The SBA disaster loans are available to qualified businesses and non-profit associations in the approved counties of: Mobile, Baldwin, Clarke, Escambia, Monroe and Washington.

Governor Bob Riley requested and the SBA approved the Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

"BP is the responsible party for this disaster and we continue to encourage Alabama businesses that have suffered economic loss due to the oil spill to file claims with BP," said Riley. "However, help from the Small Business Administration is available and is a tool that employers who have been hurt by the oil spill may want to use."

Businesses that want to file a claim with BP can call 800-440-0858 or file at claims offices on North Wintzell Avenue in Bayou La Batre or 1506 North McKenzie Street in Foley.

The centers will begin taking applications Tuesday, May 18 and will be open Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. They are open for one Saturday only, May 23 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The locations of the SBA centers are as follows:

Baldwin County / Gulf Shores
Harry Roberts Community Center
300 East 16th. Street
Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542
Language: Primarily English, some Spanish.

Mobile County / Bayou LaBatre
Bayou LaBatre Community Center
12745 Padgett Switch Road
Irvington, Alabama 36544
Language: Primarily English, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Laotian.

NOTE: The Bayou LaBatre Community Center's mailing address is Irvington, however the physical address is Bayou LaBatre.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is the lead agency for the state's response to the oil spill under the Unified Command. ADEM is coordinating efforts for a wide range of state agencies that are involved in responding to the situation. Additional information and updates regarding the oil spill and Alabama's response may be obtained at www.adem.alabama.gov.

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