

## Dear CBA Volunteers and Members,

There are many groups and agencies working on getting information out to concerned citizens regarding the oil in the Gulf of Mexico. I have compiled information from multiple groups coordinating volunteers and/or providing information about the needs of those in the middle of the emergency operations. I hope this helps you synthesize the information out there and enable you to be a part of the clean-up where you are best suited.

### 1) Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge: Contact: 650-1880.

ECWR is coordinating a volunteer effort that needs supplies for their bird wash station for the Tri-State area. They are asking for donations of the following items:

Baby blankets

Towels

Heating pads (w/o auto shut off if possible)

Large Rubbermaid containers with lids

Heating lamps

Rubbermaid troughs (can be purchased at Tractor Supply in Crestview or on-line)

Large backyard portable pools like found at Wal-Mart

They also mention that **their biggest need at this time** is for people who are willing to answer the phone at the refuge. You will respond to callers' frequently asked questions and add names to the volunteer list. Remember, every effort is important and valuable. Please contact Susan at 650-1880 if you are able to come in to answer the phone.

### 2) Emerald Coastkeeper, Inc: Contact: Chasidy at 850-429-8422 or [chasidy@emeraldcoastkeeper.org](mailto:chasidy@emeraldcoastkeeper.org)

Coordinating volunteer efforts to to prepare for oil making landfall is to clean up the shorelines. The less garbage and debris on shorelines the easier they are to clean up. I know the weather is not going to be friendly, but if you can get to your favorite shoreline today or tomorrow you can help speed up the clean up process.

DO NOT remove any live plants. Simply remove any garbage, large shells, drift wood, etc. Debris should be removed to the extent that wave and tides can reach.

### 3) Choctawhatchee Audubon Society: Contact: Nonie Maines at [nonie@noniesark.com](mailto:nonie@noniesark.com)

Audubon is coordinating volunteer efforts and you can help! From cleaning oiled birds (requires proper training) to counting birds to picking up trash on beaches before the oil hits - there are many things that you can do to help. If you are interested

<<http://www.audubonaction.org/site/R?i=ykQyaTgg7pNEOmUi3Op5Vg..>> in volunteering,

please sign up here. We will be back in touch soon with more details.

While every hand is needed and welcome, it's vital that volunteers offer their help through coordinated efforts like this so that the greatest good can be focused where it is needed the most. Please avoid going to affected areas or handling wildlife until you are part of coordinated responses. Even well-intentioned people can inadvertently interfere with important recovery efforts.

Audubon has our people on the ground and is working with state and federal agencies leading the response - we can help find the best volunteer job for you.

4) Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent—Brooke Saari at [bsaari@ufl.edu](mailto:bsaari@ufl.edu) or 850-892-8172 (Walton) /850-689-5850 (Okaloosa).

Advanced Employment Solutions will be hiring up to 500 people to help clean up and serve as general laborers, crew leaders, site supervisors, safety reps, etc. Jobs will range in pay from \$10-\$18 and may require extensive travel. Workforce Escarosa will host hiring events at the Pensacola one-stop building (607-8700) and Century one-stop (526-6259) through Wednesday from 9 am-1 pm. See job descriptions at [www.employflorida.com](http://www.employflorida.com) <<http://www.employflorida.com>> and see #'s 9481666, 9481677, 9481718, and 9481331.

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5) Volunteers are needed

- Please visit <http://www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org/> and sign up to volunteer if you are able.
- Volunteers are mostly needed to traverse beach areas and identify areas of oil sheen or tar mats. Without identification, mitigation efforts will be significantly hindered.

6) Information sites or contact phone numbers: Below is information taken from multiple emails about federal/state/and local effort:

1. NOAA--NOAA is restricting fishing for a minimum of ten days in federal waters most affected by the BP oil spill, largely between Louisiana state waters at the mouth of the Mississippi River to waters off Florida's Pensacola Bay (map attached). The closure is effective immediately. Details can be found here: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>. Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call 800-440-0858.

2. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)-- Michael Sole, Secretary of FDEP has experience dealing with oil spills and is on the ground fighting for protection of our area. Pre water and air monitoring has been initialized. For information about what FDEP is doing visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm>

3. City of Fort Walton Beach—Carole Jones at [cjones@fwb.org](mailto:cjones@fwb.org). The City of Fort Walton Beach is developing a citizens' response team. Volunteers will be trained to clean birds and marine life.

4. Walton County: Residents looking to volunteer their time toward prevention and clean-up in Walton County are asked to go to the home page of the Walton County Sheriff's Office web site, [www.waltonso.org](http://www.waltonso.org). An Oil Spill Volunteer Application can be found here. The Application can be emailed to [ccox@waltonso.org](mailto:ccox@waltonso.org) or you may drop your application off at the Santa Rosa Beach Substation. In addition, the web site will keep the public informed of any development concerning this incident and potential impacts. A 24-hour citizen's hotline will be set-up at for Walton County at the Sheriff's Office to report. That number is (850) 267-2000.

5. Information from the Destin Chamber: Representatives from the DEP, BP, the US Coast Guard, Okaloosa County, and other officials will be at a public meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, May 4, at 2 p.m., at the *Okaloosa County School District Administrative Building in Fort Walton Beach*. This meeting is being held to answer as many of your questions as possible. Please plan to attend for any information you need concerning the oil spill.

The clean-up operations from any oil that may reach the beaches or inland waterways is being administered by the US Coast Guard. Emergency management personnel from both county and city staffs will be under the guidance of the Coast Guard.

NO ONE is authorized to handle any tar or chemical that washes ashore or that is floating in the water unless properly trained. Only those trained by OSHA and EPA will be allowed to handle this material. If you wish to be trained or wish to volunteer for the clean-up, please call 1-866-448-5816 and be properly trained.

Charter boat captains or other captains who would like to assist with any efforts taking place on the water must call 425-745-8017 to be put on the list and trained.

***Please respect the requests of the US Coast Guard and DEP as they lead this effort. The work being done is under their command. Any interference with their work or procedures could drastically hurt our collective efforts in limiting the damage from the oil spill.***

6. Okaloosa Department of Safety—850-651-7560. They are collecting volunteer contact information. Please let them know if you animal experience or boating experience.

7. Haz-Mat training: [www.bereadyescambia.com/training](http://www.bereadyescambia.com/training). All classes are currently full. They are trying to get additional classes set up. Please check the website for Haz-Mat training classes.

8. This website address is provided for further information: Deepwater Horizon Incident Joint Information Center <http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/site/2931/>

9. **Washington, DC** - In response to the Deepwater Horizon incident, Congressman Jeff Miller (FL-01) launched a new web hub totally dedicated to keeping the residents of Northwest Florida informed of the latest developments related to the oil spill and the community. The Deepwater Horizon Hub will be continually updated with breaking news, images and emergency contact numbers.

<http://jeffmiller.house.gov/deepwater/>

7) Information from the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber—provided by Representative Matt Gaetz.

How to protect your property

- Contact the Okaloosa County EOC at 651-7583 or the Santa Rosa County EOC at 983-5372 and request that your property be included in the Area Contingency Plan when booms are deployed.
- If you have a contractor who will install booms, submit your request for booming to your County EOC and they will submit to the Florida EOC.
- If you are denied a booming request, document all costs for possible payment by BP. No payment is being guaranteed at this time.

8) Background information—taken from email from Niceville Valparasio Chamber email and provided by Representative Matt Gaetz (questions please call his office at 833-9328):

#### Immediate On-Shore Conditions

- Tar balls and oil sheen on Gulf waters will begin appearing in Northwest Florida as soon as Tuesday.
- Winds that have kept the sheen plum at sea will turn North at this time bringing the impact to shore.
- Oil “sheen” is different than an oil “slick.” A “sheen” is about one millimeter deep which discolors the water and sand. A “slick” is the deep dark crude oil most damaging to wildlife.
- Not all impact will be linear (West to East). “Breakouts” in the sheen plume may mean that areas to the East will see an impact as soon as or before areas to the West.

#### Conditions at the Deepwater Horizon site

- Originally, six “fail safe” pistons were in place. They all failed. No information exists to identify the cause of the failure.
- One piston has been closed, though it has not significantly reduced flow.
- 5,000 barrels (210,000 gallons) of oil are entering the Gulf each day
- A “total failure” of the existing infrastructure could lead to spills as high as one million barrels per day; necessitating the highest need for care at the rig site.

#### Plans to cap the well

- The best option is to effectively close the final five pistons (one has already been closed by BP robots).
- Failing that, BP is currently constructing a “dome” that will be placed over the well area. The dome will include piping that will direct the oil out of Gulf waters.
- Relief wells are currently being “slant drilled” to cap the well below the surface. This is the ultimate “true” fix, though it may take as long as 8 weeks.

#### Challenges with “dome” solution

- It is expected to take 10 days to 2 weeks
- It is a temporary solution that will still require the drilling of relief wells
- A dome has never been put into place nearly one mile into the ocean under these conditions.

### Mitigation efforts underway

- Skimming, dispersants and open-water burns are currently taking place off shore.
- Booms are working offshore to contain oil to facilitate ever more burns, though difficult wave action has limited progress.
- Environmentally sensitive areas are being identified and protected with “booming.”
- Burning and coastal dispersants are not planning on being done inshore.

### The “booming” process

- Each County is being asked to identify environmentally sensitive areas in their Area Contingency Plan. The hope is to have all such areas “boomed” within the next 48 hours.
- Today, 13,000 feet of boom was put into place
- Booming does not stop oil – it merely diverts it at the surface.
- Currents and rough waves significantly reduce the effectiveness of booming.
- Booming cannot be done on the Gulf front beaches – only inshore.
- Currently the booms out in the ocean are failing.
- Openings to bays and estuaries will be given top priority.
- Diversion booms have failed at the Pensacola Pass and catchment booms are being installed. The same is likely for the Destin Pass, though there are hopes of leveraging the bridge structures for better results.

### Impact to Beaches

- Local beaches will be stained by the oil sheen and will see tar balls
- Staining can be “solved” with raking and disking
- Tar balls mostly need to be cleared by hand. BP is paying for tar ball pickup, though additional volunteer efforts are needed.
- If “tar mats” reach shore, they must be identified before they collect sediment and sink or are covered by more sand.