

Date: June 25, 2010

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Escambia County, FL

Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key Beach Protection and Shoreline Cleanup

Requested By: Larry Newsome, Escambia County Incident Commander, Escambia County Emergency Operations Center

1.0 Introduction

The Escambia County Emergency Operations Center is requesting that BP immediately implement the following shoreline protection and cleanup measures for Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key:

1. Barber beach rakes working in tandem with BeachTech Sifters to remove tar balls on top of the beach and oil material buried due to tidal action. Specifically, Escambia County is requesting the rake/sifter operation be conducted every night. Night operations will require appropriate turtle protection measures. The beach rakes/sifters will supplement the ongoing day and nighttime manual oil collection efforts.
2. BP needs to immediately implement oil tracking prevention devices at every equipment ingress/egress access point. Currently oil is being tracked into parking lot areas and consequently onto adjacent beach roadways.
3. Viscous snares (Pom Pom's) need to be implemented along the entire Gulf sand beaches of Escambia County. The snares will be used to help collect small and mid size tar balls along the beach. Implementation of snares will compliment the ongoing manual oil collection efforts. The use of snares along the Gulf of Mexico would be done under two possible scenarios.

Scenario 1 would involve the use of snares 24 hours a day depending on the type of product washing ashore and need. These snares would have to be monitored during the entire 24 hour period, including observations for any nesting sea turtles and any oiled wildlife coming into contact with the snares. Snares would be removed when saturated with oil.

Scenario 2 would involve the use of snares during daylight hours only. This scenario would also involve continual observation of the integrity of the snares with removal when saturated.

Applications of the use of snares along inshore waterway shorelines would be done similar to the use of sorbent booms and monitored continuously to ensure effectiveness and integrity.

4. Absorbent boom and/or viscous snares should be implemented immediately for the entire inland shorelines (sound side) of Perdido Key and Pensacola Beach. Tar balls and mousse material continue to daily infiltrate Perdido Bay and Pensacola Bays. These shorelines that are being requested for protection are especially vulnerable due to the along shore currents in the bay.
5. Modified Track Hoe should only be utilized after heavy oiling (mousse) of the beach in concert with manual cleanup efforts. A quick survey of the beach can identify areas requiring modified track hoe use. The track hoe should be used in oiling areas where manual removal methods will not remove the surface oil within a 24 hour period. Escambia county understands that various mechanical methods, including modified track hoes, rakes and sifters are still being tested on Escambia County beaches and as a result sufficient manual crews need to be available to aggressively clean up the beach after heavy oiling (see note 6 below). As identified in the recent oiling of Escambia County beaches, if the oil is not removed within 24 hours it gets buried by the high tides and additional mechanical removal operations will be required at a later date. To improve safety, demarcation fence should be utilized to cordon off all mechanical cleanup areas including ingress/egress areas off of the beach. In addition, Escambia County has observed severe rutting of the beach areas due to heavy equipment (front end loaders, tractors, etc) operating on the beach. This creates an unsafe walking condition for cleanup workers and tourists alike, therefore, it is requested that BP immediately implement a reasonable beach grooming plan to mitigate the mechanical equipment rutting and safety issues.
6. Manual cleanup should continue 24/7. It is requested that significant additional cleanup crews be mobilized during heavy oiling to aggressively address areas not identified for cleanup by modified track hoes (see note 5 above). It is requested that a minimum of 1000 workers be available for each beach (Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key) to quickly respond to heavy oiling conditions. Until mechanical equipment methods are improved (see note 5 above) to a reliable level Escambia County expects an aggressive manual response.
7. Belt Skimmers- Escambia County is requesting that BP immediately mobilize four additional belt skimmers (minimum 200 barrel capacity per skimmer) for Pensacola Bay and two additional belt skimmers for Perdido Bay to provide swift response when oil is identified in the bay areas. In addition, the County is requesting that BP utilize a helicopter for continuous aerial reconnaissance of both bays. Real time information should be relayed directly from the helicopter to the skimmers so as to expedite cleanup operations.

8. Air Curtains – Escambia County is requesting that an air curtain be installed at the entrance of Little Sabine and Lafitte Cove basins on Pensacola Beach to provide a barrier for below surface tar balls from entering each basin.
9. Oil absorbent protective fencing that allows water to freely flow through while absorbing hydrocarbons - Escambia County would like to request that BP install oil absorbent protective fencing as a secondary barrier for critical marsh areas and additionally to protect large rip rap areas. BP has already cleaned up one rip rap area near the toll booth entrance to Pensacola Beach and we can expect multiple cleanup operations at this location unless protected by alternate means. When installing the fence material in marsh areas, overlapping gaps every 100 feet will be required to allow free flow of habitat into and out of marsh areas.
10. Three wheeled Cherrington beach cleaners- Escambia would like to request that BP set up a demonstration for the Cherrington beach cleaner on Perdido Key or Pensacola Beach as soon as possible. This piece of equipment was recently demonstrated on Grand Isle, Louisiana (June 2010)