

****Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Update****

May 6, 2010

In these alerts, we endeavor to provide our best, honest assessments of the situations the City and surrounding community are facing. Good or bad. It is our sincere wish to provide the best information to our area.

The oil threatening our area is historic in its proportion. At this time it is not a spill, but a leak whose actual size has not been accurately measured and continues to grow and will ultimately threaten communities from Louisiana to the Florida Keys.

The Good News

BP and the State have been very active in putting protective measures in place.

BP has not tried to deflect responsibility and all indications are that they are using all the best practices currently known to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Part of the planned protection is a major "boom" (floating barrier to the oil) in the Bay east of Pensacola Pass

Additional booms have been placed around environmentally sensitive areas (access points to wetlands) around the City of Gulf Breeze

Additional booms are scheduled to be placed spanning Bob Sikes (beach) bridge and Three Mile bridge.

The weather, winds and tides are providing this area with unexpected additional time to get preparations in place.

As a result of our location and the aggressive protective measures in place, we expect to be spared the worst of the spill impact and first landfall in Gulf Breeze may be a few days after it hits the beach.

The Bad News

It is unlikely that the protective measures will be sufficient to enable the City to avoid any impact at all.

Unlike hurricanes, once we are impacted, this will be a clean up effort that we will face day-in and day-out, for an undetermined period of time.

Booms and other protective measures are not 100% reliable and depend upon favorable weather, wave heights, tides and regular maintenance.

Untrained or unequipped personnel should NOT attempt clean up of shores, wildlife or booms. Reports of chronic health problems among unprotected cleanup workers and volunteers are widespread from earlier spills.

The protective measures and clean up are and will be costly. Ultimately, resources will be limited.

The frequency and thoroughness of BP provided cleanup resources and crews may not be satisfactory.

The State, rather than the City, has authority and responsibility in the surrounding waters.

All oil is "special waste" and may not be disposed of through the City's normal collection process. We will keep you informed of what disposal options are, as they are implemented. Again, **UNTRAINED PERSONNEL WITHOUT PROTECTIVE SUITS AND APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT CLEAN UP EFFORTS.** Pets should be kept from direct contact as well.

There are no reliable predictions of the nature of the oil we should expect, nor precisely when. At this time, forecasts do not indicate impact here within the next 72 hours.

The City is in the process of developing training resources for residents and prospective volunteers. We will provide additional information when these are available.

The City of Gulf Breeze will provide periodic updates as more information becomes available.

Please feel free to forward this email to neighbors and area residents.

Santa Rosa Citizens Info

983 - 4636

Escambia County Info

471 - 6600

<http://www.cityofgulfbreeze.com>

We encourage all residents to stay informed about the forecasts for this and any future events.