

Sector St. Petersburg, FL.

Safe Boating Week 2010 FAQs

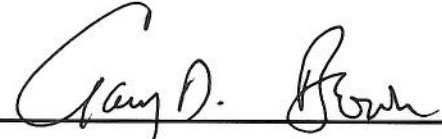
Mississippi Canyon 252

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Safe Boating Week 2010 FAQs for the Deepwater Horizon Response

As of May 28, the leading edge of the main oil spill was 300 miles from Clearwater, Florida. The well site is 340 miles to Clearwater. The role of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the Deepwater Horizon Response is to assist in public outreach efforts as coordinated by the Unified Command in St. Petersburg.

Q: I'm going fishing out on the middle grounds; who do I call if I spot oil?

A: For all sightings of oil, contact the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802

Q: Is oil clearly visible so I can avoid it if I come across any?

A: While it is unlikely that you will encounter oil from Deepwater Horizon, you could come across oil from other sources. Oil may not be visible in time to avoid. Note the location and notify the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.

Q: I've heard that the Coast Guard won't let me come back in if I have oil on my hull. Is this true?

A: You may not realize that there is oil on your hull until you moor. If you inadvertently transit through oil, the Coast Guard will not stop you from returning to homeport. Note the location and notify the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.

Q: What do I do if my outboards take oil in the water intake?

A: If sheening water (indicating lighter oil) goes into a water intake on an outboard engine, the engine will not be damaged. Check with your manufacturer for more specific information on heavier oil.

Q: Will the oil harm my hull if I go through it?

A: Depending on the situation, oil may stain your hull. The impact is cosmetic; no structural damage will result from the stain.

Q: What do I do if I see birds or any other wildlife with oil on them?

A: For all reports of oil, including impacted wildlife, contact the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802. You should also contact the oiled wildlife hotline at (866) 557-1401.

Q: Is the oil flammable? Is there a fire hazard if I drive through it?

A: No, there is no fire hazard when you drive through oil. The burning that is going on at the spill site requires large quantities of thick oil, not just sheen.

Q: Is there anything I can do to help?

A: Go to the website www.volunteerflorida.org or call (850) 921-5172 for the latest information on volunteer activities in the state of Florida.

Q: What do I use to clean my boat if I encounter any oil?

A: For most oil, the cleaning products you typically use on your boat will remove oil. For heavy stains, consult your marina or local boating supply store for an appropriate cleaner designed for your hull (fiberglass, aluminum, wood, etc).

Q: I keep hearing that the oil is dangerous to handle, is that really true?

A: YES! Similar to the gasoline or oil you use, the oil in the water is not something you would want to have on your skin. Any oil spill clean up activities require special training. Please report any oil to the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.

Q: I've heard a lot about hair booms, what's the story?

A: While this suggestion was submitted to BP as an alternative method for containing and recovering the oil spill, it was not deemed feasible after a technical evaluation. Individuals and organizations are asked to discontinue the collection of hair for the hair boom. For more information, please visit the Florida Department of Environmental Protection: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/>

Q: Where can I get factual up to date information on Deepwater Horizon Response?

A: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com> on that website is the most up to date information on the oil spill.