



Panel Discussion: How are Federal and State Governments Currently Monitoring the Effects of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill on Human Health?

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Immediate & Long Term Concerns

- Health and well being of residents, visitors and responders
- Environment, wildlife, marine life
- State's economy
 - Coastal Tourism
 - Commercial fishing and shellfish harvesting

Florida Response to the Deepwater Horizon Incident

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection is lead agency for the State Emergency Response Team
- Florida Department of Health is lead for Public Health & Medical Response
 - Focus of initial preparedness phase:
 - Public information
 - Establish environmental baselines
 - Contingency planning (including hurricanes)

Providing Timely and Accurate Public Information

- Established Information Management Branch within the Incident Management Structure
- Deepwater Horizon Response Resource Website
- Toll-free Florida Oil Spill Information Line
- Florida Poison Control Centers

Health Level Of Concern	Trigger	Action Recommended <i>Actual actions will be determined after assessment</i>
LOW	<p><u>General & Vulnerable Population:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote sensing images of oil / sheen >30 miles or approx 1-2 days away and <u>not</u> moving inshore (NGA / NOAA), • Increasing concern from unexposed well persons, • No confirmed tar balls, • No reports of ingestion of contaminated seafood in Florida, • Water sample results at or below baseline, • Seafood tissue samples at or below baseline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct syndromic surveillance through Emergency Departments, monitor Poison Information Network exposure data, and monitor ESF14 communications. • Develop and distribute pre-scripted health messaging shared with established call centers and county health departments. • Consult with toxicologist and clinicians to further define those at risk. Develop messages for these populations. • Monitor DACS/FDA recalls and market withdrawals for Florida seafood products. • Monitor closures of Florida fisheries.
MEDIUM	<p><u>General & Vulnerable Population:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote sensing of oil / sheen < 30 miles or less than 1-2 days away and moving inshore, • Closure of non-Florida Fishery(ies) or harvest areas, (> 9 nautical miles) • Unintentional consumption of contaminated commercial seafood or seawater, • Exposed individuals report ill to healthcare system, • Air quality (AQI) unhealthy or worse for sensitive groups, • Scattered/Presence of tar balls, • Sample results (seafood or water) indicate risk. 	<p><u>In addition to low activity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct confirmatory sampling - SCAT/FDA/DACS/DEP. • Conduct further analysis – Subject Matter Experts • Modify/ verify the sensitivity and specificity of syndromic surveillance systems. • Provide outreach to health care providers on reporting requirements. • Provide messages about how recognize and to limit exposure to poor air quality. • Distribute public messaging, common sense approach for avoiding contact (swimming, diving, etc) with oil/sheen, what to do when inadvertent contact occurs, and accidental ingestion of seawater. • Reinforce messages about not fishing in contaminated waters and how to recognize contaminated fish and shellfish (filter feeders). • Distribute pre-scripted health messages for populations at risk.
HIGH	<p><u>General & Vulnerable Population:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamers observed near shore within or approaching state lines, • Closure of Florida Fishery(ies) or harvest areas, (< 9 nautical miles from shore) • Presence/heavy coverage tar balls, • Confidence that oil / sheen will be on shore within 1 day, • Water sample results at affected beach unacceptable, • Food tissue sample results showing unacceptable taint or risk, • Air quality (AQI) unhealthy, • Reports of unexpected clinical effects from oil exposure or clusters of illness reported from common exposure. 	<p><u>In addition to medium activity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post health advisories at affected beach based on approved concept of operations • Alert media of beach advisory posting • Implement criteria for re-sampling and removing health advisory • Delineate and alert media of closed fish and shellfish harvesting areas with concurrent health advisory.- FDA/DACS/DEP • Distribute targeted health messages for general and at risk populations. • Enhance surveillance and investigation of reported health affects.

Monitoring for Health Effects

- Per CDC guidance, Florida is using its established surveillance systems
 - Syndromic surveillance through ESSENCE
 - Hospital Emergency Departments Chief Complaints
 - Syndromic surveillance through BioSense
 - Military and VA treatment facilities
 - Florida Poison Control Centers
 - Providers reminded to report clusters / outbreaks of illness to local health department
- Based on above, local and state health department follow-up and investigation, as warranted
- Responder health & safety being monitored and managed by Unified Command and federal partners

Monitoring the Environment for Potential Health Risks

- Florida working with local, state and federal partners to conduct baseline and ongoing sampling of:
 - Air quality
 - Particulates pollution index correlated to syndromic surveillance
 - Developing protocol for near shore in-situ burning
 - Water quality
 - Seafood tissue testing
 - Working with state and federal partners to develop protocols for re-opening fisheries
- Issue and rescind health advisories based on established concept of operations