

On the Shoreline: West Coast of Florida

The oil from the Deepwater Horizon/BP spill is known as Light Louisiana Crude, which does not contain hydrogen sulfide. The components of Light Louisiana Crude which are of most concerns to public health, such as benzene, evaporate quickly once the oil reaches the surface. As much as 40 percent of the oil spill volume may evaporate in the first 24 to 48 hours after being released.



Because the oil source is more than two hundred and fifty miles from the shoreline of the West Coast of the Florida peninsula, any oil reaching the shore will have been at sea for many days or weeks and will be highly weathered mousse or tar balls.



Oil will weather to form small, hard, floating black pellets or chunks of oil. Tar balls also occur naturally and wash up regularly on Gulf Coast shorelines.



Mousse is brown, rust, or orange in color with a pudding-like, sticky consistency. It has little odor and can be confused with algae. Chemical analysis will be required to distinguish mousse from algae.



Several options exist for shoreline protection against weathered oil or tar balls depending on the environmental conditions of the area.



Oil containment boom can be used to protect shorelines or to divert weathered oil or tar balls to collection points.

Questions? Concerns? 1-866-448-5816

For more information on oil characteristics:
www.noaa.com www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com

The Deepwater Horizon/BP Response

West Coast of Florida



The mobile offshore drilling unit Development Driller III (near) is drilling one of the two relief wells to permanently plug and secure the well. The drillship Discover Enterprise (far) is capturing oil from the ruptured well using the Riser Insertion Tube.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Kelley.



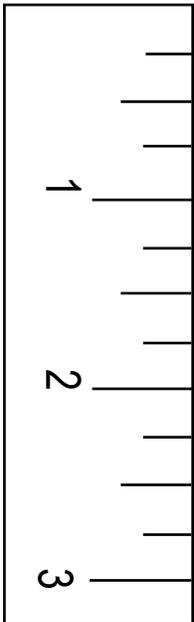
Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Teams are dispatched to evaluate shoreline impacts at sites where weathered oil or tar balls have been found. Tar balls and weathered oil deposited on the shoreline can be manually removed with shovels, rakes, and scoops or mechanically with scrapers, loaders or similar equipment when appropriate.

What's being done at the source

- Oil is contained using booms and removed from the water using skimmers.
- Oil is contained and burned on the surface of the ocean, weather permitting.
- Dispersant chemicals are used to break oil slicks into fine droplets that then disperse into the water column. Dispersants significantly reduce the formation of emulsions.

What to do if you find oil on the shoreline

- Take a photo.
- Use this ruler to show size.
- Note color, appearance, location, date and time.
- Report it to 1-866-448-5816.
- Avoid contact.
- If skin contact occurs, flush with water or remove with baby oil.



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