



Summary of Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Deep Water Horizon oil spill response activities

- 13,000 clean up workers, 1700 boats, and 1800 federal employees are directly involved in clean up work.
- OSHA is part of the coordinated response and is working closely with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and National Environmental Health and Safety (NEHS) regarding appropriate training, personal protective equipment (PPE), and to investigate complaints/incidents.
- OSHA, NIOSH and NEHS are monitoring all 17 staging areas with OSHA staff daily. They are present on the beaches and on boats. 20-25 staff travel to the sites daily.
- OSHA, NIOSH and NEHS have conducted 550+ site visits since May 24, 2010, both noticed and unannounced. All findings are reported to British Petroleum (BP) for immediate action daily and reported up through Unified Command as well.
- Primary health effects have been heat related illness and fatigue.
- Exposure risk for majority of workers has been weathered oil. OSHA has industrial hygienists on the ground and on boats monitoring and sampling for exposure levels to airborne toxicants. Thus far their sampling has shown very low or no levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).
- Vessel captains and crews engaging in boom retrieval receive enhanced training covering a series of safety messages as part of an existing training module to increase their knowledge on hazards in the weathered oil environment.
- Respirators: OSHA is NOT recommending the use of respirators at this time. This is based on current sampling data showing little to no risk. They also are taking into consideration high heat and humidity and increased risk of adverse health events for persons who have underlying cardiac or respiratory conditions who may be required to wear one. OSHA will continue ongoing monitoring and should the situation change, will update this recommendation.
- NIOSH is currently investigating the seven workers from Louisiana who experienced adverse health events recently. No findings are currently available. NIOSH will also be the agency conducting the Health Hazard Assessment for long term effects.