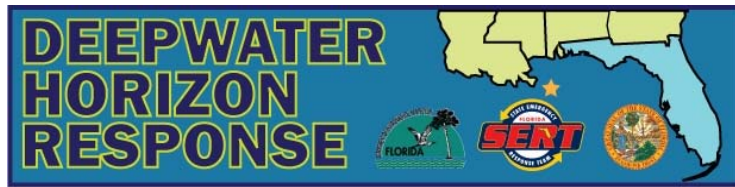


## Oil Impact Notice Talking Points July 4, 2010

- In May, 2010, the Florida Department of Health developed and provided county health departments a concept of operations for issuing Health Advisories along the Gulf coast, using the visual presence of oil as the trigger for posting the advisory.
- On July 2, 2010, due to rapidly changing conditions at any given location along Florida's beaches, FDOH, in coordination with the impacted counties revised guidance to provide for the issuance of an Oil Impact Notice in lieu of Health Advisories.
- Oil Impact Notices will provide information for the general public to make decisions on whether to avoid entering beach waters, or continue to enjoy above high tide line beach activities.
- An Oil Impact Notice could potentially stay in place for an extended period of time, and may be removed based on local determination when the beach is no longer impacted by the oil spill. Existing notice signage may be replaced by other informational notices based on the condition of the beach.
- Originally, Health Advisories were rescinded based on at least two consecutive high tides with no oil sheen/oil slick/ oil mousse/ extremely large number of tar balls observed in the water from the high water mark out to at least 100 yards from shore, as observed by a designated government professional.
- Counties impacted by the oil spill encountered instances where oil product was present in the water, yet not visible from the beach. The surf conditions at the time were choppy and precluded visualization of any oil products in the water. Therefore, the new guidance for posting Oil Impact Notices was developed.
- If an increased health risk is indicated by future testing, more stringent measures may be implemented.
- Consider the following tips for avoiding negative health impacts from an oiled shoreline:
  - Avoid entering areas where oil can be seen or smelled (no wading, swimming or entering the water).
  - Avoid direct skin contact with oil, oil-contaminated water and sediments.
  - Avoid contact with dead or dying fish or other aquatic life.
  - Do not swim or ski in areas affected by the oil spill, and if traveling through the area by boat take precautions when hoisting the boat anchor. If oil makes contact with the skin, wash it off with grease cutting liquid dishwashing detergent and water.
  - Do not fish in oil spill-affected waters.
  - Do not harvest or eat dead fish, fish with oily residue, or fish that have a petroleum odor.
  - Avoid boating through oil slicks or sheens.
  - Young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and individuals with underlying respiratory conditions should avoid the area.
  - Prevent pets from entering oil-contaminated areas.
  - Those near Florida's Gulf Coast may detect an odor because of the oil spill. Some people are more sensitive to these odors and may experience nasal irritation and feelings of nausea. In combination with seasonal allergies, such as sensitivity to pollen, or pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, some people may experience more severe symptoms.



- Individuals experiencing respiratory symptoms that are aggravated by the odors from the oil spill should consider:
  - Staying indoors in air-conditioning and avoiding strenuous outdoor activity.
  - If symptoms do not improve, contact a primary care physician or other health care provider for medical advice.
- Individuals who have pre-existing medical conditions such as asthma or other respiratory illnesses should contact their healthcare professional if feeling symptomatic.
- Florida's residents and visitors can learn if their beach has been posted with an Oil Impact Notice by visiting <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/BEACHnames.html>.