

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Surveillance

September 16 – September 22, 2010

The Escambia County Health Department is monitoring health data and Poison Control calls for any activity related to the oil spill.

ESSENCE (Enhanced Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics) is a surveillance system that collects data from: one (1) local Emergency Room; Poison control calls to the 1-800-222-1222 hotline; and calls to the National Poison Data System. The data collected through ESSENCE emergency room visits includes basic patient demographics, chief complaint at time of visits, discharge diagnosis and discharge disposition (home or admitted).

Emergency room visits reported in ESSENCE: Sept 16 – Sept 22, 2010

Escambia County Health Department is checking ESSENCE for increases in complaints of cough, asthma, other respiratory complaints, eye irritation, rashes, and any complaint that includes the words “oil” or “tar.” For the time period of 4/1/10 – 9/22/10, 18 complaints (14 male; 4 female) have been reported in ESSENCE with the complaint including oil or tar.

For the week of Sept 16-22 there were no visits to the ER that were related to oil exposure. The last ER visit recorded in ESSENCE that possibly was related was on 8/20.

Poison Control Hotline Calls: Sept 16 – Sept 22, 2010

ESSENCE also tracks data from the Florida Poison Information Center Network (FPICN) and the National Poison Data System (NPDS). The NPDS system includes data from calls to poison centers through the BP medical hotline. In Escambia county, for the period 4/1/10 – 9/22/10, 93 calls (47 female; 46 male) have been reported by the FPICN (this includes poison control hotline and NPDS calls).

For the week of Sept 16-22, there were no phone calls made from Escambia County to the hotlines captured in ESSENCE. The last reported phone call was received on 8/18/10.

To date, the most common exposure type reported to the FPICN/NPDS for Escambia County is inhalational (54), followed by dermal (18).