

OSHA's Exposure Assessment Activities Related to Gulf Oil Spill

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Making the Most of Federal Deepwater Horizon Data for Human Health
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OSHA Activities

Why were we there and what were we doing?

- Ensure that workers have safety and health training and protection necessary to avoid injuries and illnesses
 - Technical Assistance to UC and Agencies
 - Conduct Interventions
 - (4,266 site visits)
 - Develop and implement exposure assessment and sampling plan



OSHA Worker Exposure Assessment and Sampling Activities

- Sampling Strategy developed very early
 - Three (3) work zones
 - Sixteen (16) specific work tasks
- Information collected on employers, workers, and work tasks (used standardized “intervention” form)
 - Hazards
 - Controls
 - Appropriate PPE ensembles



Sampling Tasks

The Job Matrix

1. Manual scraping
2. Sump and pump/vacuum
3. Manual removal of oil materials
4. Low pressure flushing
5. Manual sorbent application
6. Manual cutting
7. In-situ burning
8. Vacuum truck, vacuum pumps, portable skimmers
9. Oil mop
10. Recovery of oil from groundwater
11. Marsh-non shore cleanup operations (SCAT)
12. Skimming
13. High pressure cleaning
14. Manual removal of solid tar balls
15. On shore support
16. Float support
17. Other

IH Sampling

The moving target

- Chemical Agents
 - Oil
 - Dispersants
 - Cleaning agents
 - Combustion products
 - New potential hazards as identified
- Physical energy
 - Noise
 - Heat
- PELs/OELs/Lowest possible detection



IH Sampling – Direct Reading and Integrated

- Personal Samples
 - Breathing zone
- Area Samples
 - Areas frequently occupied by workers
- Special Samples (characterization)
 - Bulks (air, solid, liquid)
 - Worst case



Summary of Samples – Through 11/11/10

- Posted to website
 - 2055 samples
 - 7924 results
- In process
 - 0 samples
- Direct reading
 - 391 samples
 - 1430 results
- Noise
 - 26 samples
 - 47 results





Occupational Safety & Health Administration **We Can Help**



What's New | Offices

- Home
- Workers
- Regulations
- Enforcement
- Data & Statistics
- Training
- Publications



Keeping Workers Safe During Oil Spill Response and Cleanup Operations

- [Oil Spill Home](#)
- [Worker Rights](#)
- [Chemical Exposure](#)
- [Hazards](#)
- [Training](#)
- [News Releases](#)
- [Worker Protection](#)
- [OSHA Activity](#)
- [What's New](#)

If you have symptoms or questions, and want to report them to OSHA, contact 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) TTY: 877-889-5627

OSHA's Efforts to Protect Workers

Every day OSHA has over 146 professionals protecting workers throughout the Gulf of whom between 30-50 are assigned solely to the Oil Spill Response. Since the week of April 26th, OSHA personnel have been deployed to all staging areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. OSHA staff is on the ground and on boats to make sure BP is protecting cleanup workers from health and safety hazards.

OSHA is working as part of the coordinated federal response which includes the U.S. Coast Guard and other government agencies that deal with health and the environment to evaluate BP's efforts and make sure BP puts in place all of the precautions needed to protect workers from the hazards associated with cleanup work. When OSHA finds problems or learns about them from workers, it immediately brings them to the attention of BP and monitors the situation until they are corrected. OSHA also raises its concerns throughout the Unified Command so they are addressed across the entire response area. See [OSHA's Activity Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

Exposure to Toxic Chemicals. To determine whether or not workers are exposed to dangerous levels of toxic chemicals, OSHA is conducting its own independent air monitoring both on shore and on the cleanup vessels and is reviewing data from BP, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). To date, no air sampling by OSHA has detected any hazardous chemical at levels of concern. See [more information on OSHA's sampling strategy](#), detailed findings, and evaluations. Read our [frequently asked questions on health hazards and protections](#), including information on respirators and other personal protective equipment.

OSHA Response By the Numbers

4/26 thru	8/12/10
Site visits by OSHA personnel*	3,244
Exposure Assessments	2,477
OSHA personnel:	
Permanently assigned to Gulf	146
Dedicated to local cleanup	30
Total supporting response	53

*Site Visits cover vessels of opportunity, Staging areas, decontamination, distribution, and deployment sites

Unified Command
[Deepwater Horizon Response](#)



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PATHWAYS TO CAREER SUCCESS

[CareerOneStop's Deepwater Horizon Response](#) site provides quick access to a range of employment and related resources for individuals impacted by the emergency in the Gulf of Mexico. 1-866-4-USA-DOL (1-866-487-2365) TTY: 1-877-5627

Breaking News:

- [OSHA Statement on 2-Butoxyethanol & Worker Exposure](#)
- [Statement from US Department of Labor warns employers along Gulf Coast against withholding of HAZWOPER certificates](#)



C-Span Video, Dr. Michaels Interviewed on OSHA Efforts to protect clean-up workers

What's left? – What's next?

- Performing some “data cleaning”
 - Questions in approximately 1% of data.
- Posting final data set to data.gov
- Implementing some lessons learned.

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