

**The Ongoing Administration-Wide Response to the Deepwater BP Oil Spill**  
**Prepared by the Joint Information Center**  
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\* *For a full timeline of the Administration-wide response, visit the [White House Blog](#).*

**PAST 24 HOURS**

**At the Administration's Direction, BP Begins "Capping Stack" Procedure**

After receiving approval from National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, BP began its "capping stack" procedure—designed to capture even greater quantities of oil than the current "top hat" system. Admiral Allen issued the following statement on his decision to allow BP to move forward with this strategy:

"After reviewing Bob Dudley's response to my July 8 letter outlining BP's proposed plan of action for oil containment efforts, and consulting top government scientists and engineers including Secretary Chu, I approved BP's plan to simultaneously install the *Helix Producer* and "capping stack" containment mechanisms, which will require temporary suspension of the current top hat containment system. I validated this plan because the capacity for oil containment when these installations are complete will be far greater than the capabilities we have achieved using current systems. In addition, favorable weather expected over the coming days will provide the working conditions necessary for these transitions to be successfully completed without delays. The transition to this new containment infrastructure could begin in the next days but will take seven to ten days to complete. I have also directed BP to provide daily briefings and regular informational updates to the media throughout this capping process."

BP also is in the process of connecting a third vessel, the *Helix Producer*, which will increase collection capacity to an estimated 53,000 barrels per day by bringing up additional oil up through the kill line—a redundancy measure also taken at the administration's direction.

Throughout this response, the federal government has directed BP to develop more detailed plans, create redundancy measures in case those plans fail, and apply additional resources to the largest response to an oil spill in our nation's history.

**Rear Admiral Paul Zukunft Will Assume Duties as Federal On-Scene Coordinator**

National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen announced that Rear Adm. Paul Zukunft is scheduled to relieve Rear Adm. James Watson as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response on Monday, July 12.

Zukunft, who has been in the region for several weeks overseeing strategic planning while preparing to assume the role of Federal On Scene Coordinator, is the Coast Guard's assistant commandant for marine safety, security and stewardship.

In that role he is responsible for developing national marine safety, security and environmental protection doctrine, policy, and regulations. In addition, he oversees the important work of numerous federal advisory committees and international partnerships related to marine safety, security, and environmental protection.

Admiral Allen issued the following statement: “I commend Admiral Watson’s job as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator, and he has been instrumental to key decisions in the oil collection process. As he returns to Atlantic Area to ensure the Coast Guard’s long term ability to support this operation and others, I am confident that Admiral Zukunft will continue the efforts to ensure BP secures the well completely while operationally sustaining this historic response.”

### **Successful Controlled Burn**

Favorable weather conditions allowed responders to conduct a successful controlled burn operation for the second consecutive day. As part of a coordinated response that combines tactics deployed above water, below water, offshore, and close to coastal areas, controlled burns efficiently remove oil from the open water in an effort to protect shoreline and wildlife.

### **Personnel Continue Wildlife Rescue and Recovery Missions Across the Region**

From the Houma, La., Incident Command Post, a total of 234 personnel, 82 vessels, and five helicopters participated in reconnaissance and wildlife rescue and recovery missions. The Wildlife Hotline received 66 reports of oiled/injured birds, 12 oiled/injured fish, three oiled/injured reptiles, and three oiled/injured mammals.

From the Mobile, Ala., Incident Command Post, 26 two-person teams, 14 support personnel and 12 boats participated in reconnaissance and wildlife rescue and recovery missions. 70 calls were received on the Wildlife Hotline.

### **Oil Surveys Continue Along Texas Coast**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Coast Guard are working closely with the state of Texas to identify oiled locations and test reported oil to determine its source.

### **Progress Continues in Drilling Relief Wells**

The drilling of relief wells continues and has not been interrupted by elevated sea states. The *Development Driller III* has drilled the first relief well to a depth of 17,780 feet below the Gulf surface. The *Development Driller II* has drilled the second relief well—a redundancy measure taken at the direction of the administration—to a depth of 14,500 feet below the surface. BP continues the “ranging” process—which involves periodically withdrawing the drill pipe and sending an electrical signal down to determine how close they are getting to the wellbore.

### **Administration Continues to Oversee BP’s Claims Process**

The administration will continue to hold the responsible parties accountable for repairing the damage, and repaying Americans who’ve suffered a financial loss as a result of the BP oil spill. To date, 103,013 claims have been opened, from which more than \$162.6 million have been disbursed. No claims have been denied to date. There are 999 claims adjusters on the ground. To file a claim, visit [www.bp.com/claims](http://www.bp.com/claims) or call BP’s helpline at 1-800-440-0858. Those who have already pursued the BP claims process and are not satisfied with BP’s resolution can call the Coast Guard at (800) 280-7118. Additional information about the BP claims process and all available avenues of assistance can be found at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

### **By the Numbers to Date:**

- The administration has authorized the deployment of 17,500 National Guard troops from Gulf Coast states to respond to this crisis; currently, 1,580 are active.
- More than 46,400 personnel are currently responding to protect the shoreline and wildlife and cleanup vital coastlines.
- More than 6,800 vessels are currently responding on site, including skimmers, tugs, barges, and recovery vessels to assist in containment and cleanup efforts—in addition to dozens of aircraft, remotely operated vehicles, and multiple mobile offshore drilling units.
- More than 3.06 million feet of containment boom and 5.65 million feet of sorbent boom have been deployed to contain the spill—and approximately 851,000 feet of containment boom and 2.1 million feet of sorbent boom are available.
- More than 29.1 million gallons of an oil-water mix have been recovered.
- Approximately 1.76 million gallons of total dispersant have been applied—1.07 million on the surface and 692,000 sub-sea. Approximately 440,000 gallons are available.
- 286 controlled burns have been conducted, efficiently removing a total of approximately 10 million gallons of oil from the open water in an effort to protect shoreline and wildlife. Because calculations on the volume of oil burned can take more than 48 hours, the reported total volume may not reflect the most recent controlled burns.
- 17 staging areas are in place to protect sensitive shorelines.
- Approximately 551 miles of Gulf Coast shoreline is currently oiled—approximately 297 miles in Louisiana, 97 miles in Mississippi, 65 miles in Alabama, and 92 miles in Florida. These numbers reflect a daily snapshot of shoreline currently experiencing impacts from oil so that planning and field operations can more quickly respond to new impacts; they do not include cumulative impacts to date, or shoreline that has already been cleared.
- Approximately 81,181 square miles of Gulf of Mexico federal waters remain closed to fishing in order to balance economic and public health concerns. More than 66 percent remains open. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.
- To date, the administration has leveraged assets and skills from numerous foreign countries and international organizations as part of this historic, all-hands-on-deck response, including Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United Nations' International Maritime Organization, the European Union's Monitoring and Information Centre, and the European Maritime Safety Agency.

**Resources:**

- For information about the response effort, visit [www.RestoreTheGulf.gov](http://www.RestoreTheGulf.gov).

- For specific information about the federal-wide response, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/deepwater-bp-oil-spill>.
- To contact the Deepwater Horizon Joint Information Center, call (713) 323-1670.
- To volunteer, or to report oiled shoreline, call (866) 448-5816. Volunteer opportunities can also be found [here](#).
- To submit your vessel as a vessel of opportunity skimming system, or to submit alternative response technology, services, or products, call 281-366-5511.
- To report oiled wildlife, call (866) 557-1401.
- For information about validated environmental air and water sampling results, visit [www.epa.gov/bpspill](http://www.epa.gov/bpspill).
- For National Park Service updates about potential park closures, resources at risk, and NPS actions to protect vital park space and wildlife, visit <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/oil-spill-response.htm>.
- For Fish and Wildlife Service updates about response along the Gulf Coast and the status of national wildlife refuges, visit <http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/>.
- For daily updates on fishing closures, visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.
- For information on assistance loans for affected businesses, visit the SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance), call (800) 659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).
- To file a claim with BP, visit [www.bp.com/claims](http://www.bp.com/claims) or call BP's helpline at (800) 440-0858. A BP fact sheet with additional information is available [here](#). Those who have already pursued the BP claims process and are not satisfied with BP's resolution, can call the Coast Guard at (800) 280-7118. More information about what types of damages are eligible for compensation under the Oil Pollution Act as well as guidance on procedures to seek that compensation can be found [here](#).
- In addition, [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) has been enhanced to provide a one-stop shop for information on how to file a claim with BP and access additional assistance—available in English and Spanish.
- Any members of the press who encounter response personnel restricting their access or violating the [media access policy](#) set forth by Admiral Allen should contact the Joint Information Center. Click [here](#) for more information, including a list of regular embed opportunities.

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