

Manatee County Government
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of Information Outreach
(941) 745-3783

Deepwater Horizon spill has yet to impact Manatee County; Officials continue to monitor situation

Manatee County, FL (May 5, 2010) --Manatee County Government officials continue to monitor the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Manatee County has not experienced any impact from the spill, and there has been no impact to public safety or wildlife. Coastal areas, beaches and local fishing areas are all safe for residents and visitors.

Emergency Management and Public Safety officials as well as several other county departments conducted a meeting Tuesday afternoon following a State conference call. The objective is to continue to develop planning strategies in the event the County is impacted by the spill.

A Unified Command was established and officials' determined Manatee County Department of Natural Resources will be the lead agency at this point in the event. Nationally and regionally, the United States Coast Guard is the lead agency for the incident.

The U.S. Coast Guard convened a planning cell in St. Petersburg that will perform regional planning in the event our area is impacted, according to Coast Guard Officials.

Manatee County will continue to send updated releases as warranted. At this time there are no threats to our area.

The following are some helpful websites regarding the situation:

www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com

www.epa.gov/bpspill/.

www.volunteerflorida.org

The Florida Emergency Information Line will be active for the foreseeable future on a daily basis from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Those concerned may dial (800) 342-3557 to receive information regarding the Deepwater Horizon Response. You may also sign up for e-mail alerts by visiting a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Web site, www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon.

For further information, call Capt. Larry Leinhauser in Manatee County Information Outreach at (941) 748-4501 ext. 1640.

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