

DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE

Fact Sheet on Volunteer Programs

Federal agencies responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and BP have received many offers of volunteer support since early May. Volunteer assistance can fall into the following general categories: beach and shoreline patrolling to identify and report the presence of oil, oiled wildlife or wildlife that may be at risk (e.g., nesting turtles), providing animal rehabilitation support through trained paraprofessionals, and volunteer services that indirectly support these activities (e.g., babysitting to allow someone to participate in patrolling beaches.)

As part of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Volunteer Plan, state volunteer coordinating organizations in each of the four Gulf of Mexico states are charged with leading volunteer efforts in their respective states. The lead organizations and points of contact are:

- Janet Pace with the Louisiana Serve Commission in the Office of the Governor. E-mail: JPace@crt.state.la.us. Phone: 225-342-3125 www.volunteerlouisiana.gov
- Tom Linley, with Volunteer Florida/Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, E-mail: Tom@volunteerflorida.org Phone: 850-922-2101 www.volunteerflorida.org
- Lisa Castaldo, with Serve Alabama, Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, E-mail: Lisa.Castaldo@ServeAlabama.gov. Phone: 334-954-7440
- Emily Wilemon, with the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service. E-mail: EWilemon@MCVS.org. Phone: 601-432-6779. www.mcv.org

Approximately 20,000 volunteers have signed up to work in the Gulf region. Volunteers cannot come into contact with contaminated materials but may perform mitigation activities in non-oil contaminated areas such as pre-cleaning or patrolling beaches. Volunteers also may work in wildlife recovery centers if they receive appropriate training as paraprofessionals, however, volunteers without federal or state wildlife licenses cannot handle wildlife.

Volunteers are being trained in different modules ranging from safety for beach clean-up to wildlife monitoring. Information about registering and training can be found on the incident website under "volunteers" at www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com. Individuals wishing to volunteer may contact the state organizations directly. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

To comply with safety regulations regarding handling of hazardous materials and wildlife, state and non-governmental organizations involved in hazardous materials cleanup or cleanup/rescue of wildlife must limit their use of volunteers to those who have had specialized and mandated training or certification. Volunteers are being made aware of this and state volunteering organizations are setting realistic expectations about how they can be helpful during this crisis. BP awarded \$25 million to each state to assist with state contingency plans.

Essential levels of training for volunteers or contractors are:

Level 1 (Basic HSE Training) – Volunteers not in contact with spilled oil (e.g., beach patrolling.)

Level 2 (Contractors and Paraprofessionals) - For contractor employees conducting clean-up work.

Level 3 (Wildlife Recovery and Rehabilitation) - For trained Wildlife Recovery & Rehabilitation volunteers assisting with wildlife cleanup. This is a graded certification course.

Level 4 – For responders with direct contact to petroleum (including boat captains and crew already under contract to BP).

For more information, please visit: www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com