

May 5, 2010

What you should and should not do in areas affected by the oil spill

Updated May 5, 2010: Watch for regular updates at www.emergency.louisiana.gov because the situation could change rapidly.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals is advising residents to avoid areas affected by the oil spill. Residents should follow the guidelines below.

- ▶ Avoid direct skin contact with oil, oil spill-affected water and sediments.
- ▶ Do not swim or ski in areas affected by the oil spill, and if you must travel through the area by boat, take precautions when hoisting the boat anchor.
- ▶ Do not fish in the oil spill-affected waters.
- ▶ Do not harvest and eat dead seafood, seafood with oily residue, or seafood that has a petroleum odor.
- ▶ Do not drive your boat through oil slicks or oil sheens.
- ▶ Young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems and individuals with underlying respiratory conditions should avoid affected areas.
- ▶ Do not let pets enter oil-affected areas.
- ▶ Do not burn debris, driftwood or other materials contaminated with oil.
- ▶ If oil gets on your clothing, wash separately from the family laundry. You may use your regular detergents.

- ▶ The odor is not a health risk. However, if you experience severe incidents of nausea or respiratory problems seek medical attention.
- ▶ Residents bothered by the odor are advised to stay indoors and run their air conditioner in recirculation mode.

IMPORTANT: If you get oil on your skin, wash it off immediately with soap and water or hand-cleansers meant to remove oils and grease. If you develop a rash, see your doctor and tell them how you came into contact with the oil.

People wishing to help with clean-up, should it be necessary, must be properly trained. Residents are advised that they should not attempt to conduct oil spill response work without the proper training and support from a contractor or volunteer agency certified to be part of the effort. You can go to www.emergency.louisiana.gov to find out how to be part of the response effort.

For more information related to the oil spill, visit www.emergency.louisiana.gov. Connect with us on www.facebook.com/GOHSEP and on Twitter at #GOHSEP.

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