

## Deepwater Horizon Response Volunteer Information

### Coast Watchers:

Individuals who live along or are visiting coastal communities can watch for oiled wildlife, vegetation, and beaches by becoming a Coast Watch volunteer. Similar to the Crime Watch program, Coast Watch volunteers are community members who know the daily wildlife and plants that exist on their local beach.

The "Coast Watchers" will assist BP and their partnering organizations in identifying beaches that need attention.

Coast Watchers will work within the coastal communities where they live or visit and commit to do the following:

- Report **injured** or **oiled animals** to the **Wildlife Distress Hotline: 1-866-557-1401**
- Report **oiled shoreline** to: **1-866-448-5816**
- Report a change in **Air Quality** to: <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>

Coast Watchers are **not permitted** to enter off-limit areas to obtain observations and must not make contact with oiled wildlife, vegetation, and beaches due the health concerns associated with contact.

Citizens wanting to become a Coast Watcher do not require any special training or registration. However, they should be conscious of the coastal environment in their community. If a Coast Watcher observes contaminated wildlife, vegetation, or shoreline, it should be reported immediately to the numbers above.

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service is encouraging Floridians and visitors to watch for oiled wildlife, vegetation, and beaches by becoming a Coast Watch volunteer.
- The "Coast Watchers" will assist BP, the state of Florida and partnering organizations in identifying beaches that need attention.
  - For information on scheduled beach cleanups and other volunteer opportunities, visit [www.VolunteerFlorida.org](http://www.VolunteerFlorida.org).
  - BP has established a volunteer program and set up a toll-free number for those interested in volunteering. When calling, interested parties should communicate what activities they are volunteering and locations in which they are available to work. In addition, potential volunteers may call this line to learn about the training that is required to work in oil spill clean-up operations. For information on assisting with the response efforts, please contact BP's community information line at (866) 448-5816.

### Additional Information:

- Volunteer Florida will be sending out a Beach Cleanup Checklist form to be utilized for all beach cleanup projects.
- Any agency doing a beach cleanup should contact Volunteer Florida so the information can be placed on their website. Volunteer Florida would like to know when, where, and the contact person managing the beach clean-up.
- BP will reimburse non-governmental agencies at the rate of \$10 per hour for cleanup projects of at least 3-hours. Therefore, it is important that volunteer hours are logged accurately and promptly.
- Emergency Support Function 15, Volunteers and Donations, successfully spearheaded pre-impact beach cleanups over the weekend of May 1-2. More than 1,200 volunteers participated in cleanups in Escambia, Santa Rosa and Wakulla counties to minimize the effect of the Deepwater Horizon incident. Volunteer Florida offers guidance for conducting safe pre-impact beach cleanups at [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org).
- Over 4,600 hours have been logged for beach cleanup as of today's conference call.
- Discussion regarding BP utilizing the unemployed and folks from the service industries impacted by the oil spill for paid positions.