

Information Resources for the Gulf Oil Spill

On April 20, 2010, an explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon MC252 oil drilling platform caused the rig to sink and triggered a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. As oil continues to spill into the Gulf waters from the damaged underwater riser, impacts to the environment, the wildlife, and the economy of the Gulf region are becoming increasingly severe. Officials agree that this is the largest environmental disaster in United States history; and citizens are concerned, even here in Maryland. Although some reports suggest that oil from the spill could enter ocean currents and be carried northward along the east coast, scientists believe that the Gulf oil spill is not likely to impact the Maryland shoreline. In the event of any oil spill in Maryland, trained emergency response teams are prepared and equipped to deal with the situation. Oil spill response in Maryland is led by the Department of the Environment's (MDE) Emergency Response Division. For more information on MDE's Emergency Response Division click here.

For those who wish to stay informed of developments in the Gulf, the following links may be helpful. This page may be updated to include additional links as necessary.

MDE Information on the Gulf Oil Spill:

http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/MultimediaPrograms/environ_emergencies/Emergency_R esponse/gulfoilspill.asp

Official Unified Command Website: http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/

Official NOAA website: <u>http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/</u>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Response: <u>http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/</u>

Rutgers University IOOS-Oil Spill Website: <u>http://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/deepwater/</u>

Old Dominion University Oil Spill website: http://www.ccpo.odu.edu/~atkinson/VAMDSpill/

Florida Oil Spill Tracking Website: http://oilspill.fsu.edu/trackingspill.php

National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR): https://www2.ucar.edu/news/ocean-currents-likely-to-carry-oil-spill-to-atlantic-coast

Baltimore Sun news article: <u>http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/bs-gr-bay-spill-response-web-</u>20100617,0,2343302.story?page=1