



**SARASOTA COUNTY**  
*"Dedicated to Quality Service"*

Sarasota County has been deeply involved in all aspects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill emergency to protect local waterways, beaches and properties from any potential impact. This overview describes the scope of our efforts and preparations.

Although BP has been described as the "responsible party" in the oil spill, BP isn't in charge of the response to the spill. BP is responsible for all of the expenses related to the oil spill response and recovery. The response is being directed by a national Incident Commander, a federal on-scene coordinator who is working with the Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Interior and Commerce, the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal departments and agencies.

Sarasota County has also formed a Unified Command team including the departments of Emergency Management, Health and Environmental Services. We conduct daily conference calls with the Area Command, the state Emergency Operations Center and the Unified Command. We are constantly monitoring the spill location, its movement and potential landfall impacts to coastal areas.

The Unified Command is utilizing NOAA satellite technology, aerial and sea reconnaissance to provide around-the-clock monitoring of the spill and its position. NOAA indicates that it's extremely unlikely any oil will reach the southwest coast. All traces of oil currently remain several hundred miles from our shores and far from the 94-mile line established as a trigger point to initiate protective measures in west coast counties. Any residual oil products that approach our coastline will be highly weathered by winds and waves and will be small, black pellets that can be removed from any area they affect.

An Area Contingency Plan outlines the primary strategy to protect the bay and inlets of Sarasota County. Sarasota County also has aggressively enhanced these plans to assure that all sensitive environmental and coastal areas are properly marked and that adequate booming and protective strategies are spelled out.

Sarasota County also has prepared its own detailed contingency plans. The county has contracted with four contractors with extensive oil spill response and clean up experience and equipment. These contractors will immediately deploy trained personnel and resources in our waterways and on our beachfronts if we determine that the federal, state and BP response is not adequate or effective. As part of our preparations, Sarasota County has been conducting base-line sampling to establish existing water quality and beach conditions.

We also have provided extensive communications and information to the public and potential visitors, as well as property and business owners. We have been conducting a series of briefings with local chambers of commerce, homeowner associations, advisory boards and government agencies. We have also met with representatives from local environmental groups and have created a response network to keep each other informed and provide resources when needed.

These communications efforts include brochures on county preparations and ways for the public to volunteer and get involved in the oil spill response. Sarasota County is providing up-to-the minute oil spill information on the county website at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net), and is running public service announcements on television and radio.

The Sarasota County Commissions and county administration are fully committed to protecting our waterways and water resources, our coastal and beach areas, and the properties of all our residents.

Respectfully,



Edward J. McCrane Jr.  
Emergency Management Chief  
Sarasota County Unified Command

