



City of Gulf Shores

Update – Friday, July 30, 2010 – 5:00 PM

- **City of Gulf Shores beaches return to YELLOW Flag conditions.** The City of Gulf Shores has changed the beach flags to a **yellow flag** effective immediately, changing from single red flags. The flag system is used to inform beach goers of surf conditions, and the level of hazards present. As a reminder, the posting of a yellow flag indicates caution is required when entering the water. Improvements in beach conditions for Baldwin and Mobile counties have led the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to reassess the need for swimming advisories.

“With the improving beach situation, the department feels that we can lift our swimming advisories,” Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, said. “However, we recognize that even in the absence of visible oil, oil products may still be present in the sand or in the water. The department will replace red swimming advisory signs with yellow signs that outline several precautions for beach goers.”

Beachgoers may still see sporadic oil on or near the beaches, and the ADPH continues to encourage individuals not to enter waters if there is visible oil present in the water. Where these improving conditions do meet criteria established by the department to lift advisories, precautionary signs will remain and will recommend the following:

- Do not handle tar balls.
- Avoid contact with the oil.
- If you get oil or tar balls on your skin, wash with soap and water.
- If you get oil on your clothing, launder as usual.
- Do not use harsh detergents, solvents or other chemicals to wash oil from skin or clothing; they may promote absorption of the oil through the skin.
- If the odor causes nausea, vomiting, headache or breathing problems, leave the affected area.

The ADPH will continue to monitor this evolving situation and will update beach notices as needed. To read advisory information and frequently asked questions, visit the [Alabama Department of Public Health website](#).

- **Waterways Open to Idle Speed Only-No Wake:** Effective July 21, 2010, the State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has proclaimed all waterways south of Bear Point to the Easter Shore of the Mouth of Ono Harbor on Ono Island to be designated as “Idle Speed Only—No Wake” areas for all vessels. This will include Bayou St John, Terry Cove, Terry Cove Harbor, Cotton Bayou and Perdido Pass. The public boat launches at Cotton Bayou and Boggy Point are still closed.
- **The BP claims office in Gulf Shores remains open.** The office is located at 1709 Gulf Shores Parkway (the old Prudential Cooper Realty Office) directly south from the Municipal Court building. The Gulf Shores BP Claims Center is open 7 days a week from 8:00 AM to 6 PM.
- **Business Support Center (BSC) is available to local businesses.** The [Alabama Gulf Coast Area Chamber of Commerce](#), [South Baldwin Chamber](#) and the [Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance](#) have created a partnership to open a Business Support Center in direct response to businesses in need due to the Gulf oil spill. [Faulkner State Community College](#) will both host and manage the Center. The center will be staffed by a number of agencies including the Small Business Development Center, Alabama Career Center, SCORE, Women’s Business Center and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The BSC is located at Faulkner State Community College at the Gulf Shores Campus. The Center will be open from 8 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday. Please call 251-968-3118 for information.

For detailed information about the entire incident, visit NOAA (<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>) or Deepwater Horizon (www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com) response sites.