



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H..
State Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2010

Contact: Dr. Chapman
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HEALTH NOTICE RESCINDED FOR DESTIN BEACHES

DESTIN –The Okaloosa County Health Department is rescinding the health notice for Destin beaches between:

The Okaloosa/Walton County Line to Pelican Beach Resort in Destin, FL

Current signage on our beaches will be covered. In the near future, signage will be changed. The oil impacts on our beaches are intermittent and can change within hours or within a day due to the dynamic nature of the currents and changing wind directions. Residents and our visitors are encouraged to discuss the current local oil impact on their beach with the lifeguard. For beaches that are not guarded, the Health Department recommends the following:

If oil product is present on the beach or in the water (such as too numerous to count tar chips/balls; tar mats; oil mousse, sheen or slick):

- Avoid wading, swimming, or entering the water.
- Avoid touching oily product on the beach or in the water.
- Avoid contact with dead or dying fish or other water life. If you see animals needing rescue, call 311 – Option 0.
- If experiencing respiratory problems, leave the area and contact your physician, as you deem necessary.

Consider these additional tips when oil is impacting a shoreline:

- Do not catch fish for eating from the beach.
- Do not pick-up or eat dead fish, fish with an oily residue, or fish that have a petroleum odor.
- Prevent pets from entering oil-contaminated areas.
- If oil products make contact with skin, wash it off with grease cutting dishwashing soap and water.
- On occasion you may detect an odor because of the oil product in the water. Some people are more sensitive to these odors and may experience nasal irritation and feelings of nausea. In combination with seasonal allergies, such as sensitivity to pollen, or pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, some people may experience more severe symptoms. Individuals experiencing respiratory symptoms that are aggravated by the odors from the oil spill should consider:
 - Leaving the beach area. Symptoms may improve with distance from the water.
 - Staying indoors in air-conditioning and avoiding strenuous outdoor activity.
 - If symptoms do not improve, contact your primary care physician or other health care provider for medical advice.
 - Individuals who have pre-existing medical conditions such as asthma or other respiratory illnesses should contact their healthcare professional if unable to control their symptoms with their usual medications.

Consider these additional tips for when boating or jet-skiing in or near an oiled shoreline:

- Avoid boating or jet skiing through oil slicks, oil sheens, and oil mousse.
- Avoid boating or jet skiing in or around tar ball mats.



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- If traveling through the area by boat take precautions when hoisting the boat anchor to avoid splashing oil residue on your skin. If oil products make contact with skin, wash it off with grease cutting dishwashing soap and water.

For more information:

- Okaloosa County Health Department: visit www.HealthyOkaloosa.com or call (850) 833-9247
- Okaloosa County: <http://www.okaloosaf.com>
- Okaloosa County Citizen's Information Line: Dial 311 – Option 8
- Florida Oil Spill Information Line: (888) 337-3569
- Florida Poison Information Centers: (800) 222-1222

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