



## **NOAA Web Update May 16, 2010 DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident**

### **Situation: Sunday 16 May**

#### **Riser Insertion Tube Leak Mitigation Tactic is Tested**

The Unified Area Command reports that overnight, the Riser Insertion Tube Tool was successfully tested and inserted into the leaking riser, capturing some amounts of oil and gas. The oil was stored on board the *Discoverer Enterprise* drill ship 5,000 feet above on the water's surface, and natural gas was burned through a flare system on board the ship.

The test was halted temporarily when the tube was dislodged, but technicians have fully inspected the system and have re-inserted the tool. While not collecting all of the leaking oil, this tool is an important step in reducing the amount of oil being released into Gulf waters.

Secretary Salazar and Secretary Napolitano issued a joint statement on these efforts: "Today, BP attempted another test to contain some of the oil leaking from the riser. This technique is not a solution to the problem, and it is not yet clear how successful it may be. We are closely monitoring BP's test with the hope that it will contain some of the oil, but at the same time, federal scientists are continuing to provide oversight and expertise to BP as they move forward with other strategies to contain the spill and stop the flow of oil. We will not rest until BP permanently seals the wellhead, the spill is cleaned up, and the communities and natural resources of the Gulf Coast are restored and made whole."

#### **Aerial Dispersant Observer Training**

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration conducted aerial dispersant observer training today. The training will prepare flight crews to identify the heaviest bands of oil and other features to improve the effectiveness of dispersant sorties.

#### ***Response to date:***

- Personnel were quickly deployed and more than 19,000 are currently responding to protect the shoreline and wildlife.
- More than 650 vessels are responding on site, including skimmers, tugs, barges, and recovery vessels to assist in containment and cleanup efforts—in addition to dozens of aircraft, remotely operated vehicles, and multiple mobile offshore drilling units.
- More than 1.25 million feet of containment boom and 440,000 feet of sorbent boom have been deployed to contain the spill—and approximately 285,000 feet of containment boom and 900,000 feet of sorbent boom are available.
- Approximately 6.3 million gallons of an oil-water mix have been recovered.

- Approximately 600,000 gallons of dispersant have been deployed. More than 280,000 gallons are available.
- 17 staging areas are in place and ready to protect sensitive shorelines, including: Dauphin Island, Ala., Orange Beach, Ala., Theodore, Ala., Panama City, Fla., Pensacola, Fla., Port St. Joe, Fla., St. Marks, Fla., Amelia, La., Cocodrie, La., Grand Isle, La., Shell Beach, La., Slidell, La., St. Mary, La.; Venice, La., Biloxi, Miss., Pascagoula, Miss., and Pass Christian, Miss.