



STATE OF ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

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Hello Everyone,

Thank you very much for being patient and continuing to prepare in case we are asked to assist in the oil spill response. There **has not** been an activation of any ESF 11 personnel as yet. We are still in the preparedness stage right now. We will continue to provide information to you as it becomes available. **Do not self-deploy!**

We have received additional information on how assist with the oil spill efforts. There are three ways Alabama SART members can help.

1. Participating in beach clean-up and other non-professional activities as directed by BP and official governmental response personnel. BP is preparing volunteers for shoreline clean-up, if needed. Volunteers are encouraged to call the Volunteer Registration number at **888-421-1266 or call 211. Inform the operator that you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the oil spill cleanup, and would need HAZMAT Training.** There are required health and safety training sessions that must be attended before volunteers can be utilized. See the document entitled "5.4.2010 Oil Spill Volunteer."

2. As a Wildlife Paraprofessional. A paraprofessional is defined as an individual that:

- Either posses, or work directly under a person possessing, an active permit or authorization related to the species to be worked on;
- Are affiliated with a wildlife organization working within the Wildlife Branch of the Incident Command Structure (ICS), or are staff members of a wildlife Trustee agency;
- Agree to work under, and abide by, appropriate planning documents prepared by the Unified Command (such as Site Safety Plan, Incident Action Plan, public affairs requirement, etc.), and
- Have a working knowledge and experience (at least 3 months) with the general protocol, procedures and safety hazards associated with working on the species of question.

If you are a "Wildlife Paraprofessional" and would like to assist in the oil spill response, please see the enclosed document entitled "Wildlife Paraprofessional Information."

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is working with specific governmental and non-governmental organizations to address wildlife issues. BP has hired Tri-State Bird Rescue to coordinate the wildlife rehabilitation efforts and they are working with local organizations to stage area rehabilitation locations and volunteers.

3. As an active SART member. SART members may be considered paraprofessionals if they have had basic ICS training and some specialized animal health training as reviewed and approved by the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries Emergency Programs staff. SART members approved to participate will need a specific 4-hour safety training administered

by BP safety contractors before being able to respond. More information on the availability of this training will follow.

Please do not attempt to decontaminate or rehabilitate wildlife at home. If you find oiled or injured birds, do not remove them from their habitat. Rather, document the location, time, number of animals, your name and the association with which you are affiliated and then report this information by calling the toll-free number **866-557-1401** that has been established to report oil or injured wildlife.

Please remember that self-deployment of non-trained volunteers and spectators will potentially hinder rescue and recovery efforts.

The following links contain useful and up-to-date information on the oil spill efforts and opportunities to volunteer:

1. <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/>: This site provides information from the state, federal, and private industry arenas. This is a unified response with BP taking the primary responsibility for response efforts. This is an official site that will provide general response information. There is contact information for volunteers on this site. Help may be needed to clean beaches.
2. <http://www.agi.alabama.gov> This is the official Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries website. Updates and emergency information regarding Agriculture can be found here, along with press releases and public information announcements from Commissioner Sparks and the Department.
3. <http://www.alsart.org> This is the Alabama Dept of Agriculture's State Agriculture Response Team website. Up to date information and links to important websites are located here.
4. <http://www.ema.alabama.gov/>. This is the Alabama Emergency Management Agency's website.
5. <http://www.alabama.gov/>. This is the official State of Alabama website and will have updates on the emergency status.
6. <http://www.tristatebird.org/>. Tri-state Bird Rescue and Research is coordinating the bird issues related to the oil spill. We are also trying to obtain additional information on how volunteers can assist and what kind of training will be needed.

If further guidance is needed, you may contact the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries Emergency Operations Center at 334-240-7278.

Thank you in advance to everyone who is leaning forward and preparing for the potential animal and agricultural impacts of the situation along the Gulf Coast.

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