



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

Issue Number: 7

## DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

Even as late as mid-August oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill continued to threaten the Louisiana coast. Because of this on-going threat, DEQ is working alongside other state, federal and local agencies in an incident command structure to address this Spill of National Significance. Even though the well has been capped, there is still much to do.

DEQ scientists serve as technical support to the State-On-Scene Coordinator, or acting as SOSC as needed. The DEQ incident commander and deputy commander direct allocation of DEQ resources to fulfill

the responsibilities for incident response. These efforts occur at area command in New Orleans and Incident Command in Houma. The department provides scientists that serve as scientific support to the State-On-Scene Coordinator, or act as SOSC/Deputy SOSC as needed.

Duties include coordination and oversight of all spill response efforts, including, but not limited to: helping set response objectives and priorities, working with section chiefs for incident action planning, booming strategies, various assessment operations, aerial operations, decon area assessments, waste assessments, sampling efforts, liaison activities, gathering information and sending updates to DEQ Executive Staff, meeting with parishes and local officials, review technical documents (decon plans, sampling plans, decant plans, waste management plans, dispersant plans, alternate clean-up technology requests, Shoreline Clean-up Assessment plans, end-point agreement, burn plans, NRDA documents, etc.) and provide comments and recommendations to the SOSC in their regard.

In an effort to protect human health and the environment, DEQ and EPA worked together to develop an air-monitoring plan before the oil had reached land. The team also prepared air-monitoring routes for EPA's mobile air monitoring lab. DEQ requested and EPA employed its ASPECT air monitoring plane to assist in gathering data. Response contractors also have regular air monitoring capability and provide daily information. EPA is taking water and sediment samples, per DEQ request.

More than 2,500 air, water and sediment samples have been taken during this event. DEQ has access to all EPA data for review. With this knowledge, it has been determined that no federal or state air quality standards have been exceeded. There have been odors related to the oil spill, and they can have a varying degree of impacts on people who are sensitive to odors. However, from an air pollutant standard standpoint there have been no health risk levels that reached a point where human health would be impacted.

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Shoreline Clean-up Assessment teams were deployed along the coast

DEQ has air monitoring sites in Kenner and Chalmette Vista and these sites have been collecting daily samples for H<sub>2</sub>S, SO<sub>2</sub>, total non-methane hydrocarbons, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels. Normally, there is a sample schedule that provides samples once every six days, but now daily samples are collected at these sites and being analyzed at EPA's cost. When the total hydrocarbon levels reach a specified threshold, a strike canister sample is collected and will be analyzed for individual speciated compounds.

The EPA has eight air monitoring and sampling locations: three in Plaquemines Parish monitoring for volatile organic compounds, particulates and H<sub>2</sub>S (Venice Operations); three in St. Bernard Parish monitoring for VOCs and particulates (Chalmette Operations); two in Grand Isle/Port Fourchon monitoring for VOCs (Grand Isle Operations).

All EPA sampling data is available at <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>.

Debris management is another important aspect to the oil spill cleanup. Prior to any of the oil-related debris reaching the Louisiana coast, DEQ and DNR prepared

a waste management guide which outlined disposal and treatment options for the anticipated debris. The guide allows for the solid waste portion of the debris and E&P contaminated soils and vegetative debris to be disposed of in Type I permitted solid waste landfills. Type I landfills require the most stringent controls including: double liners; leachate collection systems; groundwater monitoring; daily and interim cover; levees protective of a 100-year flood; and gas collection systems (for those with potential to produce methane gas). The oil spill debris received is consistent with the types of waste permitted.

DEQ staff are stationed at decontamination stations and staging areas throughout the Gulf Coast to ensure waste is discarded appropriately. These areas include: Grand Isle and Fourchon; Dulac, Cocodrie, & Premier Dock; St. Mary-Franklin, St. Mary – Berwick, Vermilion-Intracoastal – Abbeville.

DEQ, along with other state agencies, provide various forms of assessment.

SCAT (Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Teams) teams are deployed daily, weather permitting, to categorize and assess oiled areas. The teams consist of one state, one federal and one responsible party personnel. These teams assess the oiled area by air and water and/or foot and make determinations of the type of habitat impacted, extent of impact, and type of impact. Extensive measurements and data are collected to document the type and extent of shoreline impact. These experienced field scientists then make joint decisions of the type of clean-up to be recommended to operations that would be the least damaging to that particular environment. SCAT teams also recommend clean-up "endpoints" to the Unified Command, and perform final close-out assessments once remedial efforts finally come to an end. SCAT teams are based out of Houma and New Iberia.

CAT (Clean-Up Assessment Teams) oversee clean-up operations, and are many times conducted by on-going SCAT Team assessments.





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**RAT** (Rapid Assessment Teams) are deployed under Operations to quickly assess and evaluate if a report of oil is of operational concern (will it cause impact and is it recoverable). Typically, about one SCAT team per day has been used for this purpose.

**RECON** is used to determine operational tactics. Where is the oil and what are going to do about it. This is typically done by air, and many times in conjunction with aerial Ops.

**Aerial Operations** is used to guide skimming vessels onto recoverable oil and direct protective efforts (i.e. booming) in front of leading edges. Working with USCG, DEQ has had a person in air ops several times a week.

## LANDFILL CLASSIFICATIONS

The Waste Permits Division within DEQ's Office of Environmental Services is responsible for issuing solid waste permits to various entities throughout the state that receive waste for disposal. These commonly include landfills and facilities which may accept certain solid waste materials as a result of their normal business operations. There are three classifications of solid waste landfills in the state of Louisiana. Classifications are referred to as Type I, II or III. While each type is held to a set of requirements that govern the specific waste materials that are accepted, some facilities can fall into two classifications if the nature of their particular waste acceptance protocol encompasses those areas. Type IA and Type IIA facilities are processors.

- Type I facilities are used for disposing of industrial solid waste. If the facility is also used for disposing of residential or commercial solid waste, it can also be classified as a Type II facility. Type I landfills are the most protective with two liners, a leachate collection system and monitoring wells;

- Type I-A facilities are used for processing industrial solid waste. Examples of these facilities are transfer stations, incinerator waste-handling facilities, shredders,

balers and compactors. If the facility is also used for processing residential or commercial solid waste, it is also classified as a Type II-A facility;

- Type II facilities are for disposing of residential or commercial solid waste (also known as municipal solid waste). Examples include landfills, surface impoundments, or landfarms. If the facility is also used for disposing industrial solid waste, it is also classified as a Type I facility;

- Type II-A facilities are used for processing residential, infectious, or commercial solid waste. Examples of these facilities are a transfer station (processing), composting of municipal solid waste, refuse-derived fuel facility, shredder, baler, or for medical waste autoclave or incinerator. If the facility is used for processing industrial solid waste, it is also a Type I-A facility;

- Type III facilities are used for the disposal of construction and demolition debris or wood waste, composting organic waste to produce a usable material, or separating recyclable wastes (a separation facility). These are typically municipal landfills. Residential, commercial, or industrial solid waste must not be disposed of in a type III facility.

At present, there are 28 municipal solid waste landfills in the state; some of which are allowed to receive industrial waste. While most permitted landfill sites in the state follow the rules and regulations that govern their use, DEQ does occasionally see some infractions. Some common violations of landfill maintenance and performance standards include the lack of gates or fencing to restrict public access, inadequate monitoring measures, allowing dust, litter and odor nuisances that are in breach of their permitted guidelines, acceptance of improper waste materials, failure to control erosion and water accumulation at the site and exposure violations as they pertain to the landfill itself.

The Waste Permits Division, the Surveillance Division and the Enforcement Divisions all work together to ensure that facilities are meeting the proper guidelines and adhering to their permits.





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## COMBUSTION, INC.: ONGOING REMEDIATION SITE IN DENHAM SPRINGS

A central part of DEQ's mission is to provide oversight and support to contractors who have been hired to perform water, air and solid waste testing at sites across the state that fall under DEQ's purview. One such example is the water testing work done by URS Corporation at the Combustion, Inc. Superfund site in Denham Springs. Combustion, Inc. has been undergoing semi-annual groundwater testing by URS in the wake of over two decades of environmental mismanagement by the site's former property owners.

DEQ Staff Environmental Scientist Todd Thibodeaux, responsible for site overview, makes periodic visits to ensure that the tests are being conducted in an accurate, timely and thorough manner.

This particular Superfund site is unique because DEQ is the lead agency. Most Superfund sites in the state are under the charge of the Potentially Responsible

Parties (PRPs) or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We have a great working relationship with the potentially responsible parties and URS," said Thibodeaux. "They have not only done an exceptional job in keeping us and the public informed on the remedial activities performed onsite, they have also made the area a much safer place for local residents."

Combustion, Inc. was formerly an oil reclamation site that was listed as a Superfund site in 1990. Over the past 20 years, DEQ has worked with the Potentially Responsible Parties and URS Corporation to initiate a plan and actively clean up the oils and chemicals that have impacted the site. DEQ, the parties and URS have been moving forward with clean up plans since the initial removal of the bulk of the contamination in the late 1990s.

Given this location's unique environmental and ecological benefits, it was determined that nature itself would play a key role in kick-starting the clean up efforts.

Over five years ago, native species of trees such as poplar, pine, oak and willow were planted on site in an effort to absorb and degrade much of the contamination in the shallow groundwater aquifer. Under this plan, DEQ has outlined a five-year proposal for the Potentially Responsible Parties that will hopefully achieve a 10 percent reduction in the contamination. Observations thus far have shown that the project is working and the indigenous trees are doing the job.

Several water wells on the property are tested by URS twice a year (April and October) with DEQ oversight. Testing dates and times are scheduled when optimum weather conditions are expected to elicit the most accurate reading possible. During a typical sampling event, water is analyzed for the presence of any organic or biogeochemical indicators that extend beyond the permitted parameters.

Through the combined efforts of everyone involved, headway is being made to capture and remove the



DEQ Staff Environmental Scientist Todd Thibodeaux observes a well inspection by URS at the Combustion, Inc. site





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contaminated soil and water on the property. As of April 2010, chemicals such as volatile organics and semi-volatile organics were noted to still be present in shallow groundwater, but its presence had not extended beyond a non-manageable degree.

As DEQ and URS continue to work together and monitor the natural attenuation of the environment, they are keeping their eye on various indicators of biological activity in the soil and groundwater. So far, all results have been positive as DEQ and its partners work toward bringing another site back into full environmental compliance.

## DEQ OFFERS RETIREMENT INCENTIVE OPTION TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

In an effort to avoid layoffs, the Director of Civil Service approved the department's request to offer a retirement incentive plan to eligible employees at the start of the summer. The implementation of the plan gave those eligible to retire an opportunity to take advantage of the incentive.

Already in place agency-wide, the plan serves as another mechanism by which the department continues to find new approaches to streamline work processes during this challenging budget climate.

"This measure will help DEQ become more efficient in our operations while providing the flexibility needed to address these difficult budget demands," said Vince Sagnibene, DEQ Undersecretary.

In order to be eligible, an employee must meet the requirements for regular retirement on or before August 20, 2010. An employee must have 30 years of state service at any age, 25 years of service at age 55, or 10 years of service at age 60 to qualify for the incentive. Additionally, employees currently in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) or continued employment after DROP are eligible for participation as well.

The department offered eligible employees a one time payment incentive of 50 percent of their annual salary, after payment for up to 300 hours of annual leave. In order to take advantage of this incentive, employees will be required to retire on or before August 20, 2010.

## DEQ ON THE MOVE



DEQ staff volunteers help children do a recycle craft at LIONS Camp Challenge in Leesville



Markle Farber talks with John Bridges on the Sunrise Show KPLC in Lake Charles about the 2010 Green Business Expo



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## A SUCCESSFUL 2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

All legislative sessions hold promise and hurdles. This year was no exception. A wrap up of the activities and efforts of the 2010 legislative session indicates a wide variety of bills, resolutions and study requests that will impact the future of DEQ.

“The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was fully engaged during the 2010 legislative session fielding nine department bills and tracking over 180 bills and resolutions that had the potential of impacting the department’s operations and services provided to Louisiana residents, businesses, industries and municipalities,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch.

The department worked very closely with the chairs, vice chairs and legislative members of its oversight committees throughout the legislative process. In the House, DEQ is overseen by the Natural Resources and Environment Committee, where Representative Gordon E. Dove is the chair and Representative Karen G. St. Germain is the vice chair. DEQ’s appropriations are under the auspices of the Business Development Appropriations Subcommittee where Representative Gary L. Smith Jr. is the chair. In the Senate, DEQ is overseen by the Environmental Quality Committee, where Senator Jody Amedee is the chair and Senator B. L. “Buddy” Shaw is the vice chair. DEQ also presents before the Natural Resources Committee where Senator “Nick” Gautreaux is the chair and Senator Dan “Blade” Morrish is the vice chair.

Overall, DEQ’s package bills were designed to further streamline the operations of the department, promote regulatory flexibility, and offer more compliance assistance to Louisiana businesses and municipalities. A list of DEQ’s legislative package is listed below along with the authors.

Bill No. & (ACT)	Author	Description
HB 898 (ACT 154)	St. Germain	Re-creates the DEQ.
HB 891 (ACT 48)	Lambert	Provides for the organization of the DEQ.
HB 895 (ACT 295)	Morris	Provides for asbestos abatement.
HB 897 (ACT 393)	Foil	Provides for motor vehicle inspections in ozone non-attainment areas.
HB 892 (ACT 152)	St. Germain	Provides for the definition of a solid waste facility.
HB 896 (ACT 982)	St. Germain	Provides for the term for permits of certain solid waste facilities.
HB 893 (ACT 49)	Champagne	Provides for the authority to issue notifications of inclusion for certain permits.
HB 894 (ACT 153)	Champagne	Authorizes regulatory permits for certain solid waste facilities.
HB 913 (ACT 296)	Champagne	Provides for the DEQ revolving loan programs.

“DEQ executive, technical and legal staff worked closely with our stakeholders who include members from business and industry, environmental organizations, and municipalities in crafting our legislative package. Next, we worked very closely with the chairs, vice chairs, staff, and members of our legislative oversight committees throughout the legislative process to ensure that they were kept informed every step of the way,” said DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning, Ph.D., who serves as the Department’s Legislative Liaison.

Working with the legislature to promote a better state government and to help make DEQ able to better serve the citizens of Louisiana is a priority.





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## AIR QUALITY CHALLENGING

Air quality is an important factor in the quality of life of Louisiana's citizens. For many years, the air quality in Louisiana has steadily improved. Even so, DEQ is striving to meet all national standards for all criteria pollutants. For Louisiana, the major focus for air quality has been the ozone standard and how ozone affects the population. The Environmental Protection Agency is tightening the ozone standard and many others such as fine particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides (Nox) and lead. Most recently EPA has issued a revision to the sulphur dioxide standard by creating a one-hour rule and will designate nonattainment areas by June 2012. They are also requiring monitors that check for lead.

The tightening of the standard requires a comprehensive approach to solving any air quality problems. As part of that approach, DEQ is conducting their first five-year monitoring network assessment of all air monitoring sites. This assessment will help DEQ make the best use of what equipment and staff is available for air quality assessment. More limited resources require the optimum use of equipment and personnel and this five-year assessment will provide valuable information.

As a result of the coming standard changes, DEQ has launched an extensive educational campaign to educate communities that may be affected on the potential impacts. DEQ presented Web-in-Airs to the members of the Louisiana Municipal Association and to the Louisiana Police Jury Association. These presentations were engineered to inform the communities about the coming changes, their impacts and early actions they can take to mitigate those impacts. DEQ staff has attended several dozen public meetings and numerous technical conferences to help communities understand why these new standards will be important.

As the standard changes, there will be adjustments in the Air Quality Index to reflect those changes. It is important to know about air quality. Anyone can register to get free daily notification of air quality forecasts through the EnviroFlash air quality notification system.

The EnviroFlash system can also be used to send special messages about air quality to subscribers. To Subscribe to EnviroFlash go to [www.enviroflash.info](http://www.enviroflash.info).

Information on current air quality, monitoring sites and air quality assessment can be found on the DEQ Web site, [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov). The public can also access the EPA Air Now Web site at [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov).

## DEQ HOSTS INAUGURAL GREEN BUSINESS EXPO

Protecting human health and the environment is everyone's obligation, but knowing how to do that may be difficult and confusing. We should all know the benefits of saving energy, conserving water and driving less. Yet, there are many new technologies and ideas that advance "living green" to more environmentally friendly heights. Therefore, DEQ is hosting the inaugural Green Business Expo at the Galvez building, August 25, to help bring new environmental technology together with those who can use it.

The one-day event is from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and showcases nine presenters and many exhibits from innovative environmental businesses displaying new technologies to help protect the environment.

These businesses offer products and services that can result in real cost saving opportunities for private and public enterprises, as well as provide an environmental return for the citizens of Louisiana. The diverse environmental presentations range from floating islands, which create wildlife habitat and promote nutrient removal, oilfield wastewater reclamation systems, remediation techniques and energy enhancements. The technologies presented, if used, could show significant environmental value.

DEQ is a regulatory agency that has processes through permitting, surveillance, enforcement and remediation to protect human health and the environment. But environmental protection is more than just being a regulatory agency.



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2010 LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
**GREEN BUSINESS EXPO**  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2010 • DEQ HEADQUARTERS • BATON ROUGE, LA

The Green Business Expo is an attempt to bring people interested in making a difference in the environment through green business and new technologies together. The Expo provides an opportunity for people to exchange ideas about business and the environment and presents a unique opportunity to discuss and see environmentally friendly ideas and products. The Expo brings these ideas into one place to facilitate knowledge, discussion and opportunity to see something new and help protect the environment.

The Green Business Expo presents an interactive venue where participants assist in building a report card that scores presenters and exhibitors on implementation possibilities of their technology. DEQ will take this information and produce an annual report card on the actual implementation of the businesses as well as calculations of data designed to illustrate the lowered impact on our environment by placing their products into the stream of commerce.

In addition to the nine presentations, there are exhibitors showing other new environmental technologies. These participating companies offer environmental solutions that either make money, save money or provide a positive return on investment in the commercial sectors such as oil and gas, wastewater, municipal sources, energy and fleet management.

The Expo is beneficial for industry, municipal governments, small business and individuals.

For registration, costs and other information: go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/GreenBusinessExpo](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/GreenBusinessExpo).

## GOING BACK HOME: A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO RETURNING HOME AFTER A STORM

After a hurricane has passed an evacuated area, your local leaders and officials will determine when residents can return home. That decision will be based on many factors, including things like road conditions, public safety considerations, availability of electricity and clean drinking water.

Once local leaders clear the area for people to return home, there are many things you should consider when re-entering your community and during the clean-up phase, even if you didn't evacuate.

### ABOUT OIL

#### **Are there concerns related to oil being brought in by a storm?**

Because of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster resulting in the oil leak, this year has brought new concerns for residents along the coast. In reality, any oil carried in by a hurricane from the BP spill would be "weathered" and would likely pose a much lower health risk than common post-storm concerns such as raw sewage and dangerous debris. Still, the state has taken special steps to ensure oiled areas are dealt with safely.

#### **What should I do if I see oil in my home?**

Call 1-800-424-8802 to report oil contamination. Teams will be sent out to assess neighborhoods where oil is sighted. Depending on the extent of the damage, take caution in dealing with the oil. Small amounts of oil can be cleaned much like other floodwater remnants. Large amounts of oil may require more intense remediation. In neighborhoods where the presence of extensive oil





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contamination has been verified, specific advice for clean-up and re-entry procedures will be provided.

### **What if I get oil on me?**

Do your best to avoid bare skin contact with visible oil contamination. Wash skin with soap and water promptly if you come into contact with oil.

### **What if there are strong petroleum odors around my home?**

If you are particularly sensitive to odors or have a pre-existing medical condition such as upper respiratory problems that could be aggravated by the odor, you should avoid the areas where the odor is bothersome.

### **Is it safe for my pets to go outside if there is oil present?**

No. Do not allow pets to come into contact with oil contamination.

## **GOING HOME**

### **What precautions should I take when I am allowed to go home after the storm?**

You should wear sturdy clothing and hard-sole shoes when returning home or working around the home. You should also wear appropriate leather or sturdy gloves when handling outdoor objects. Avoid broken glass and other sharp objects.

Use extreme caution when coming upon any injured animals or pets. Beware of snakes and other dangerous creatures, especially if there has been flooding.

### **What supplies should I bring with me when I return home?**

Bring a well-supplied first aid kit. You should also remember to bring food and water in anticipation of finding unusable food and water in your home.

### **What steps do I need to take when I first return?**

Open all windows and doors when entering a building that has been damaged by wind or water. Assess your home for structural damage that may have been caused by falling trees or wind damage. If you are unsure



about the living conditions of your home, consult with a professional.

### **Is it safe to keep or eat foods that were in my home during the storm if the power went out?**

Refrigerated foods that have reached a temperature of 41 degrees or more, or which have been kept for 8 to 12 hours without refrigeration should be used immediately or discarded. Do not refreeze thawed foods. Wash and sanitize (using 1 ½ cups of household bleach to one gallon of water) cans of food (and can openers as well) that have been exposed to flood waters prior to opening them. If fresh fruits and vegetables or food in plastic, cardboard or paper containers have been under flood waters, do not eat them.

### **Will it be safe to drink the water when I return home?**

Do not drink water until it has been declared safe for drinking or has been boiled according to recommendations. Public drinking water systems will be cleared by the state and the local water system. Private wells are the responsibility of the owner and should be decontaminated appropriately before being cleared. Pregnant women should drink only bottled water, not boiled water, and infant formula should not be made with boiled water.



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## **Even if I don't drink the water, is it safe to use the plumbing in my kitchen or bathroom?**

If the septic tank or drain field is still under water, or if the system is not working correctly you should avoid using the plumbing system.,

## **What should I do if there are downed electric power lines on my property?**

Avoid any contact with any downed electric power lines on your property. Treat all electrical power lines as if they are energized until a professional responder verifies otherwise.

## **Should I be worried about gas or broken fuel lines near my home or business?**

When returning to your home or business, you should be aware of possible combustible or explosive gases – natural gas and other fuel lines may be broken during a hurricane and highly explosive gas vapors may still be present in many buildings. Other explosive gases may accumulate from decaying materials.

## **What should I do if I smell gas or hear a hissing noise?**

Do not smoke, light matches, operate electrical switches, use either cell or land-line telephones, or create another source of ignition. Leave doors and windows open and leave the building immediately. Once safely outside of the building, notify local emergency authorities and do not return until authorities tell you that you may do so.

## **Is it safe to swim or walk in floodwaters?**

No. Do not wade or swim in floodwaters. Assume all floodwaters could be contaminated with dangerous bacteria. Bathe and wash yourself and clothing in hot, soapy water after contact with floodwaters.

## **How should I dispose of waste from my home or yard? Can I throw it away in the same disposal bin?**

You should segregate all wastes generated into five categories to avoid health risks:

- Vegetative yard waste (tree limbs, leaves, etc.);
- Household chemicals, paint, herbicides, pesticides, caustic and flammable liquids (keep these items separated and in their original containers);

- White goods (refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves and similar appliances);
- Electronic appliances (computers, laptops, televisions, stereos, etc.);
- All other solid, nonhazardous wastes/debris (building materials, furniture, etc.).

When placing these wastes at curbside for pickup, keep each group separated from the other.

## **GENERATORS AND POWER SOURCES**

### **Is it safe to use a generator for power after the hurricane?**

Yes, operate the generator in the manner it was designed by the manufacturer. Use appropriate earth grounds and grounding techniques. Do not back feed (connect to existing house wiring). Never place the generator indoors. Placing the generator indoors can cause carbon monoxide poisoning – carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced when any fuel is burned, and is lethal in high concentrations if trapped indoors or in confined spaces.

### **How far away from my home should I place generators or other fuel-burning devices?**

You should always ensure that fuel-burning devices (such as gasoline-powered generators, gasoline-powered pressure washers, camp stoves and lanterns or charcoal grills) are used outside your home and are 10 feet away from windows, doors or other openings. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in your home. Have vents and chimneys checked to ensure that debris does not block or impede the exhaust from water heaters and gas furnaces. If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using a generator, you must get to fresh air right away. Death or full incapacitation can result quickly from CO poisoning.

### **How should fuels be stored when they are not in use?**

Cans of fuel, flammable liquids or gasses should never be stored indoors or next to ignition sources such as operating gas water heaters or stoves.





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## CLEANING UP

### **When I begin cleaning my home or business after the hurricane, what should I do to stay safe?**

Always make sure to provide fresh air by opening windows and doors. Allow adequate time for the area or structure to air out. Use fans both during and after the use of disinfecting, cleaning and sanitizing products.

### **What should I do to ensure electricity is used safely?**

If there is no standing water in the building and it is safe to use electricity, be sure before using any electrical appliances that they are properly grounded and, where possible, connected to a ground break equipped electrical source (GFI circuit). Do not overload circuits or extension cords. Always have safety devices readily available for emergencies such as an A-B-C fire extinguisher.

### **Do I need to take any extra precautions when cleaning? What should I avoid?**

Wash your hands frequently and wear rubber gloves. Individuals with respiratory allergies or other respiratory illnesses should not handle or disturb materials that have visible mold growth. Be aware of the possibility of mold, bacteria and other contaminants. Porous,

absorbent, or spongy materials that remain wet for more than 48 hours should be cleaned throughout or thrown away.

### **Do I need to use special cleaners or detergents?**

Materials that can be cleaned should be washed with a detergent solution, rinsed with clear water, and rinsed again with a biocidal solution such as 1 1/2 cups of household chlorine bleach mixed with one gallon of water. Allow this solution to stay in contact with the material for five minutes and rinse again with clear water. Avoid skin contact with the solution and use only in well-ventilated areas. Some materials, such as textiles, may be damaged by the bleach solution. Remember that the use of biocides (disinfectants) is no substitute for drying and cleaning materials. Make sure the materials are dry before cleaning. If they cannot be dried out, throw them away. Contaminated upholstered furniture, bedding and books are much more difficult to clean than carpet and should usually be thrown away because cleaning may be more expensive than replacement. Remember to keep all household products locked and out of reach of children. Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container securely after each use. Keep items in original containers. Call 1-800-222-1222 (Louisiana Poison Control Center, in Louisiana only) immediately in case of poisoning.

## **LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S SECOND QUARTER SUMMARIES**

### **2nd Quarter 2010 Enforcement Actions:**

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/225/Default.aspx>

### **2nd Quarter 2010 Settlement Agreements:**

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2838/Default.aspx>

### **2nd Quarter 2010 Air Permits:**

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

### **2nd Quarter 2010 Water Permits:**

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

### **2nd Quarter 2010 Solid and Hazardous**

### **Waste Permits:**

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2586/Default.aspx>

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