

# OSHA's Independent Air Monitoring

OSHA Activity to Protect Cleanup Workers Page 1 of 2

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Worldwide  
Court Reporter, Inc.

OSHA  
Occupational Safety & Health Administration We Can Help

OSHA Activities During the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

**OSHA's Efforts to Protect Workers**

Every day OSHA had over 146 professionals protecting workers throughout the Gulf. From April 2010 through October 31st in 2010, whenever from 20-40 were assigned solely to the oil spill response. OSHA personnel deployed to all strapping areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida. OSHA staff was on the ground and on boats to make sure BP and workers from health and safety hazards.

**OSHA Response By the Numbers**

Site visits by OSHA	4,364
OSHA personnel	7,428
Permanently assigned to Gulf	146

**OSHA Presence and Chemical Sampling in the Gulf**

**Exposure to Toxic Chemicals.** To determine whether or not workers' dangerous levels of toxic chemicals, OSHA conducted its own independent on shore and on the cleanup vessels, and reviewed data from EPA, the Sci. Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to identify any hazardous chemical at levels of concern. See [OSHA's health hazards and protection](#), including information on respirators and other personal protective equipment.

**Training is important.** To work in cleanup, you must be trained on the hazards of your job in a language that you understand. You must be trained before you begin oil spill response and cleanup work. [Visit OSHA's Site about on training requirements for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response.](#)

**Worker Protection.** To help workers understand their risks and what their employers should be doing to protect them, OSHA developed a series of job-specific sheets. Each sheet provides information on the hazards associated with the task and required training and PPE. Read the [Worker Protection Job-Specific page for Job-Specific Safety and Health Sheets](#), [EHS 3198 \(MS\) \(15 KB PDF\)](#), and other valuable worker protection information. Employers must provide workers with all required protective equipment (for example, protective gloves, boots and coveralls) **Free of cost.** [Additional publications on each hazard.](#)

**Heat Stress.** One of the most serious health hazards facing cleanup workers is heat stress. The risk from the heat and humidity is exacerbated by the long days worked and the protective equipment required, e.g. chemical resistant Tyvek coveralls, boots and gloves. More than a thousand workers were treated for heat-related illness, and some cases were very serious. At

<https://www.osha.gov/ois/spills/index.html> 3/12/2014

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No air sampling by OSHA detected any hazardous chemical at levels of concern.