

OSHA's Independent Air Monitoring

OSHA Activity to Protect Cleanup Workers Page 1 of 2

Ex 12236
Worldwide
Court Reporters, Inc.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OSHA
Occupational Safety & Health Administration We Can Help

Home Workers Regulations Enforcement Data & Statistics Training Publications Newsroom Small Business

OSHA Activities During the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

OS Spill Home Worker Rights Chemical Exposure Hazards Training News Worker Protection OSHA Activity

If you have symptoms or questions, and want to report them to OSHA, contact 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) TTY: 877-689-9627

OSHA's Efforts to Protect Workers

Every day OSHA had over 146 professionals protecting workers throughout the Gulf. From April 20th through October 1st in 2010, wherever from 20-40 were assigned solely to the Oil Spill Response. OSHA personnel deployed to all staging areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. OSHA staff was on the ground and on boats to make sure BP was protecting cleanup workers from health and safety hazards.

OSHA Response By the Numbers

OSHA thru	137,174
OSHA personnel	4,366
OSHA personnel	7,429
OSHA personnel	146

OSHA Presence and Chemical Sampling in the Gulf

Exposure to Toxic Chemicals. To determine whether or not workers were exposed to dangerous levels of toxic chemicals, OSHA conducted its own independent air monitoring, both on shore and on the cleanup vessels, and received data from BP, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). No air sampling by OSHA detected any hazardous chemical at levels of concern. See [OSHA's sampling strategy, detailed findings, and evaluations](#). Read our [frequently asked questions on health hazards and protections](#), 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. Read [OSHA's fact sheet 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](#), [BP Jobs \(OSHA 308 FCH, 2 pages\)](#), 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 information on work sheets](#).

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

Ex 12236
Worldwide
Court Reporters, Inc.

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

TREX-012236 0001