

evaluated practices and procedures including wildlife cleanup operations, beach cleanup operations, and decontamination and waste management activities throughout the states of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. In contrast to the offshore evaluations, which relied on traditional industrial hygiene exposure assessment methodologies and quantitative exposure monitoring to identify potential hazard, the onshore assessment relied on qualitative assessment techniques, including the use of professional judgment and expertise during observations of onshore work activities. Health symptom survey, however, were similar to those used for the offshore evaluations.

The goals of the NIOSH HHE assessments were to describe acute health effects, evaluate occupational exposures in qualitative or quantitative assessments, and generate hypotheses regarding symptoms potentially related to work activities. These assessments were not intended to describe or investigate potential long term or chronic health effects. The results of these investigations were reported in a series of nine interim reports and report summaries posted on the NIOSH website. The full reports were distributed electronically to key contacts for each work activity evaluated. Included in the reports were conclusions regarding the extent of hazards and exposures identified as well as recommendations for improving workplace conditions. Furthermore, all exposure and health symptom survey data were compiled in electronic spreadsheets and posted on the NIOSH website. This information can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/oilspillresponse/gulfspillhhe.html>. Additional information about other components of the NIOSH Deepwater Horizon response activities outside of the HHE investigation,

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Overview and Results

Review and Evaluation of Hospitalizations

In response to the BP request to evaluate the May 26, 2010, hospitalizations of seven fishermen involved in VoO operations, we reviewed hospital records from West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, Louisiana, BP Healthcare Provider Reporting Forms completed by nurse case managers, and the OSHA preliminary Incident Report of Fishermen Evacuated near Grand Isle Shipyard. We also interviewed nurse case managers and CTEH and OSHA investigators. Although all seven fishermen were hospitalized on the same day, we found that their symptoms could not be linked to the chemical dispersant that some of the fishermen had originally suspected. The seven fishermen worked on five different vessels, none of which were operating in the area of dispersant use at the time. Most of the