



LPSO Response to Oil Spill Disaster

JULY 2010



LPSO Provides Security for Presidential Visits

Sheriff Craig Webre and staff have worked closely with the White House in coordinating the two visits President Barack Obama has made thus far since the Deepwater Horizon exploded April 20th. Each trip involves dozens of deputies in concert with Secret Service and other local agencies in providing security for the Presidential motorcade. This staffing is over and above the seven deputies manning the water, beaches, security station and Emergency Operations Center in Port Fourchon every day. BP is working closely with the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office to make sure taxpayers don't pay the costs associated with the security measures. BP is reimbursing LPSO for the manpower and will continue to work with LPSO until this crisis is finally at an end.

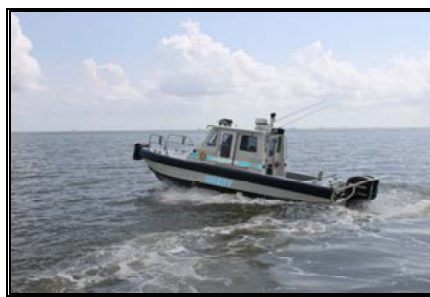
Whatever it Takes," the motto of the men and women of the LPSO.



Sheriff Welcomes NAACP Representatives

Sheriff Craig Webre welcomed state and national leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people who traveled to Port Fourchon and Grand Isle to see the ongoing impact of the BP oil spill. Sheriff Webre discussed cleanup, security and other associated efforts with National NAACP President Benjamin Jealous, Louisiana NAACP President Ernest Johnson, Lafourche-branch NAACP President Burnell Tolbert, Assumption-branch NAACP President Spurgeon Holly, Jr. and Louisiana Sheriff's Association President Sheriff Victor Jones of Natchitoches.

The civil rights leaders arrived by helicopter from New Orleans. Before their arrival at Port Fourchon, they toured some of the worst areas impacted by the oil by air. Once on the ground in Lafourche, Sheriff Webre took the visitors first to the beaches at Port Fourchon to see the efforts there to minimize the damage. From there, the contingent drove to Grand Isle to see efforts there. The group committed to doing whatever it can to assist from fighting for jobs lost to lobbying on Capitol Hill.



Spill Patrols "Christen" New LPSO Watercraft

The oil spill response has given Sheriff Craig Webre and members of the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Water Patrol a chance to utilize the newest addition to the force. The 27', rigid hull boat is a rapid response security/containment vessel that supports Port Fourchon and LOOP, LLC. The security ship was one of two major projects funded by a \$600,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

Contact Us:

1. Northern Lafourche: 985-449-2255 or 446-2255
2. Central Lafourche: 985-532-2255
3. Southern Lafourche: 985-798-2255

Oil Spill Contacts:

1. BP Outreach Center Galliano: 985-632-1087
2. BP Claims Toll Free: 1-800-440-0858
3. Trouble with BP Claims? (Coast Guard) 1-800-280-7118

To file or check on a previously filed claim:

www.disasterassistance.gov



Related news stories from the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office:

June 30, 2010

LPSO in Joint Effort to Protect Booming Operations:

<http://www.lpsso.net/pressrelease.asp?id=973>

June 11, 2010

Oil Cleanup Workers Picked up on Outstanding Warrants:

<http://www.lpsso.net/pressrelease.asp?id=945>

May 24, 2010

Activists Face Felony Charges:

<http://www.lpsso.net/pressrelease.asp?id=927>

May 22, 2010

Relief Worker Charged with Computer Solicitation of Minor:

<http://www.lpsso.net/pressrelease.asp?id=922>

The bid to build the vessel was awarded to Metal Shark out of Jeanerette, LA. It was important to Sheriff Webre that the first of its kind in our area, be built in Louisiana. It has a fully closed cabin with air conditioning and a marine generator which allows occupants to have full a/c power for computers and other equipment. It is currently being used to patrol offshore during BP's efforts to contain the oil spill from the Deepwater Horizon.



Our vessel, in fact, has taken the lead in the security operation due to its size and ability to take rough weather conditions. The LPSO contingent in the BP operation includes two water patrol deputies, two ATV officers patrolling the beach and two patrol officers assisting Harbor Police. Each deputy works a 12-hour shift, covering daytime operations. Starting Friday, May 21, a night shift patrol officer was added to aide Harbor Police. The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office role is expected to increase as more cleanup workers are brought into the area.

It is capable of carrying a contingent of our Crisis Management Unit to assist State and Federal agencies in operations and response. The air conditioned cabin allows for more patrol time on the water, as deputies aren't drained physically from either the heat or cold. This is especially important immediately after impact from tropical weather systems when water patrol officers need to be on the water 24/7 to provide security.

Weather conditions will also no longer restrict water patrols (except in the most extreme of circumstances) with the boat being fully capable of handling seas in the Gulf of Mexico. The two, 250 horsepower Optimax motors also ease the maneuverability of the vessel. This vessel is also much safer than any other LPSO vessel with the radar and GPS systems on board.

LPSO Contribution to Security Efforts



All Lafourche Parish response to the oil spill is being coordinated out of the Port Commission/Harbor Police headquarters in Port Fourchon. Each day, LPSO works in concert with Lafourche Parish Officials, Coast Guard, Harbor Police and BP representatives in plotting the next course of action in defending our coast.

The Lafourche parish Sheriff's Office currently provides round the clock traffic control, ATV and Water Patrol deputies, a Supervisor and security personnel by utilizing off-duty personnel. This is being accomplished without cost to the tax payer. BP or its contractors are funding the operations that are being planned well in advance.



ATV deputies patrol the beaches at Fourchon where workers continually work to keep the oil at bay. Water Patrol deputies patrol inside and Gulf waters looking for vessels that do not belong in the area and also provide support for the vessels that are part of the clean up efforts. Some of the people who are working to protect South Louisiana may not be as familiar with our waterways and in fact, Water Patrol has come to the rescue of more than one vessel needing help to navigate what can be tricky areas.



Since the beginning of security efforts, Water Patrol deputies have primarily issued warnings to vessels who have wandered where they shouldn't be. The one exception to date occurred June 3, 2010 when a charter boat captain out of Lafitte was cited after being found with customers on board, fishing an area that had been closed to commercial and recreational fishing for weeks, due to the spill. Alden Bourgeois, Jr. (W/M, DOB 5/23/1963, 5225 Barataria Street, Barataria) was charged with criminal trespass and failure to abide by commission rules and regulations for fishing in a closed area during a declared state of emergency. Bourgeois was also given a verbal warning for not having registration papers aboard and not having a proper registration sticker.

Frequently Asked Questions:



Are the beaches 'off limits' in Fourchon and Grand Isle?

The beaches at Port Fourchon are for clean up and security personnel only. There is a checkpoint in place to turn away any sightseers or others who have no business in the area.

The situation is different in Grand Isle. Visitors are allowed and encouraged to visit the island and help the local economy. However, no one except workers and others directly involved with the cleanup efforts are allowed between the orange water-filled boom and the Gulf of Mexico.



Are all workers being checked for criminal histories?

Yes. From the beginning, Sheriff Webre insisted that BP submit the names of all workers so that criminal histories could be obtained. Since the effort began nearly 1,500 checks have been run resulting in three arrests thus far and the identification of 15 sex offenders. In some instances, once workers realize a criminal background check will be done, they don't return for work the next day.



How can I find out more about Louisiana's response to the moratorium on drilling?

Governor Bobby Jindal, Lt. Governor Scott Angelle, Chambers of Commerce, business organizations and local elected officials along coastal Louisiana have formed GEST (Gulf Economic Survival Team). For more information about the organization, go to www.GEST.LA.gov.



How can I find out more about the "Vessels of Opportunity" program?

The Lafourche Parish Government website, <http://www.lafourchegov.org/> has specific information about this and other programs designed to aid local businesses and families.

Information about fisheries:

LDWF MODIFIES FISHING CLOSURES IN PORTIONS OF TERREBONNE, PLAQUEMINES, ST. BERNARD, LAFOURCHE AND JEFFERSON PARISHES

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Secretary Robert Barham announced the following closure to recreational and commercial fishing in portions of inside and outside waters in Terrebonne, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes and inside waters in Lafourche and Jefferson parishes **effective July 1, 2010.**

These are precautionary fishing closures are due to strong east to southeast winds and higher than normal tides influenced by Hurricane Alex and the proximity of oil in portions of inshore and offshore state waters.

Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes

The portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 13 minutes 12 seconds north latitude from the Houma Navigation Canal red buoy line westward to the eastern shore of Oyster Bayou and the portion of state outside waters from 90 degrees 46 minutes 01 seconds west longitude westward to 91 degrees 07 minutes 48 seconds west longitude near the eastern shore of Oyster Bayou.

Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes

The portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 16 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 90 degrees 07 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of Bayou Lafourche.

Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes

The open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described by the double-rig line and all state outside waters east of the Mississippi River.

Click to view maps:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/news/DETAIL-SHEET-1.jpg>

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/news/DETAIL-SHEET-2.jpg>

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/news/DETAIL-SHEET-3.jpg>

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/news/FISHING-CLOSURE.jpg>

Precautionary closures of recreational and commercial fishing have been implemented based on the best information the Secretary of the department receives from field biologists, staff and trajectory models from NOAA.

Once reports of oil are received, LDWF initiates a field survey and immediate seafood testing in the suspected areas. Closures are subsequently made with the intent to be as safe as possible, while not closing any fishing areas unnecessarily. As test results come back clearing the area, effected waters are then reopened.

LDWF continues to work closely with DHH in an effort to assess all opportunities to resume normal fishing activities on Louisiana's coast and guarantee the safety of Louisiana's seafood.

For more information related to the oil spill, visit <http://www.emergency.louisiana.gov>. Connect with us on www.facebook.com/GOHSEP and on Twitter as @GOHSEP. View photos from the state's response efforts at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lagohsep>.

For more information contact Marianne Burke, 225-765-2917 or mburke@wlf.la.gov.