



Oil Spill And Texas Beaches

As you begin preparations for a new school year, you will be meeting many new families helping them prepare their young children for their first big step into school. Keep in mind families may also be planning to celebrate the last big holiday of the season, Labor Day, or take a much needed weekend break to one of the Texas beaches or neighboring Louisiana beaches. With the recent BP oil spill, families may have questions about the safety along the beaches.

You may have received the webpost from the ECLKC recently regarding some excellent information from the CDC. The information can be used with parents and all staff: http://emergency.cdc.gov/gulfoilspill2010/info_for_parents.asp

Some tips for parents

- If you live along the coast, avoid areas where there are reports of oil reaching the shore.
 - If the smell bothers you or your child or you see smoke, stay indoors and watch closely for problems with their breathing. If you have an air conditioner, set it to reuse indoor air.
 - If your child finds any oil, tell them to avoid touching it, as well as oil spill-affected water and sand.
 - If some of the oil gets on your child's skin, wash it off with soap and water or cleansers that remove oils and grease as soon as you can. Do not use solvents or chemicals when washing your child's skin as these can be more harmful than the oil itself.
 - If your child begins to feel sick after coming into contact with the oil or spill-affected areas, contact your child's doctor or other health professional.
- Follow local and state public health guidelines and warnings related to the oil spill (links provided on the website).



Situation Update

Map of Oil Spill
<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/oil-spill-map.htm>

Videos of Oil Spill
<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/oil-spill-video-playlist.htm>

Gulf Seafood Testing
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/12/oil-spill-noaa-says-gulf_n_642869.html?ref=twitter

News Articles
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-11/bp-said-to-be-in-talks-to-sell-assets-to-apollo-to-raise-funds-for-spill.html?cmpid=bbsemrelaunch.dynamickw.oilspill>

Pregnant Women
http://emergency.cdc.gov/gulfoilspill2010/2010gulfoilspill/pregnancy_oilspill.asp



Safety Guidelines and Current Updates on Texas Beaches

Helpful Websites

General information on BP Gulf Oil Spill: <http://www.hhs.gov/gulfoilspill/index.html>

Information on hazards and health: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/gulfoilspill2010/>

Information on monitoring beach conditions: <http://www.texasbeachwatch.com/>

Information on air quality and dispersants along Texas Gulfline: <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/index.html>

Information on coping with disasters: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/preparedness/mind/>

PHONE:

Center for Disease Control: CDC 800-CDC-INFO; 800-232-4636; 24 Hours/EveryDay

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