



Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Bryan Mound

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10724-JS-0263

To: Brazoria County Oil Spill Subcommittee Members

From: Jimmy Salinas

Subject: Draft Plan for Oil on Brazoria County Beaches

Dear members, the following is a compilation of items and actions we identified and agreed upon during the TGLO Oil Sand Management Workshop on August 25, 1999.

I have placed them in a “bullet” type of format that may be easier to use; I suspect that if this gets included in the ACP that they may change the format to fit. Please comment quickly to this so I can e-mail it to Scott Benton today. Sorry for such a short time fuse on this.

Brazoria County contains approximately 40 linear miles of beaches that could be adversely impacted from an oil spill offshore or in the Intracoastal Waterway. In order to provide for the most comprehensive response to oiling of these beaches the following plan is presented to the TGLO and USCG for consideration and incorporation into the Galveston Bay Area Contingency Plan. It is the intent of County Judge of Brazoria County, Texas to utilize this plan when faced with the oiling or possibility of oiling of these beaches during an oil spill. The beaches of Brazoria County for the purposes of this plan are divided into “named sections” delineation of these sections can be determined by referencing the TGLO Oil Spill Planning and Response Atlas, specifically, maps 49, 50, 52, & 54.

**OIL SPILL NOTIFICATION FOR BRAZORIA COUNTY EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL**

- ❑ Oil Spills that impact or have the potential to impact Brazoria County Beaches should be reported to the Brazoria County Sheriffs Dept. or Brazoria County Emergency Management Coordinators Office.

- Brazoria County Command Staff includes: County Judge (Local On Scene Coordinator) Emergency Management Coordinators Office, LEPC's Oil Spill Subcommittee

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS**

- All beaches provide seasonal and year round habitat for numerous animal and bird species.
- Wolf Island in addition to providing beach type habitat, also provides tidal marsh and salt prairie habitat.
- Bryan Beach and Quintana Beach support year round communities as well as seasonal visitors.
- Surfside Beach and Follets Island support year round communities as well as seasonal visitors.

### **OIL REMOVAL FROM BRAZORIA COUNTY BEACHES**

#### **Wolf Island**

- Pre-Cleaning – Review possibility of moving debris into dune areas if oil has not yet impacted area. Considerations may include: time of year, accessibility of equipment, and volume of debris on beach.
- Oil coverage 20% or less - Allow oil to degrade through natural factors i.e., wave action, biodegradation.
- Oil coverage greater than 20% to 50% - Initiate manual recovery-using shovels and bags with emphasis on minimizing sand removal.
- Oil coverage 50% or greater - Initiate refloat and recovery operations utilizing deflection booms and portable skimming systems. If conditions do not allow for this type of operation, then consider insitu burning of spill product on location.

#### **BRYAN BEACH/QUINTANA BEACH**

- Pre-Cleaning – Move debris prior to oil spill into dunes using manpower and equipment.
- Oil coverage 20 % or less – Allow oil to degrade naturally\*
- Oil coverage 20% to 50 % - Initiate manual recovery using shovels and bags with emphasis on minimizing sand removal.
- Oil coverage 50% or greater – Initiate recovery operations utilizing mechanical equipment and segregate removed sand according to levels of contamination.

#### **SURFSIDE BEACH/FOLLETS ISLAND**

- Pre-Cleaning – Move debris prior to oil spill into dunes using manpower and equipment.
- Oil coverage 20% or less – Allow oil to degrade naturally\*

- ❑ Oil coverage 20% to 50% - Initiate manual recovery using shovels and bags with emphasis on minimizing sand removal.
- ❑ Oil coverage 50% or greater – Initiate recovery operations utilizing mechanical equipment and segregate removed sand according to levels of contamination.

### **DISPOSAL OPTIONS**

- ❑ Vernor Materials (industrial waste recycler) can accept oily sand.
- ❑ Brazoria County may be able to accept oily sand for temporary accumulation
- ❑ Brazoria County Recycling and Landfill can accept oily sand that does not exceed 1500 mg./Kg. oil contamination.

\* This method may be replaced by manual recovery if deemed necessary from an environmental or economic perspective.