Crisis In The Gulf: Monitoring The Oil Spill Response

Its Final Impact On A Vast Region Unknown, The Greatest Environmental Disaster In U.S. History Is Still Unfolding—And Spreading

by Ken Reiss, Radioken@earthlink.net

Ships and drilling rigs surround the *Discoverer Enterprise* as it recovers oil from the Deepwater Horizon drill site. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Bob Laura)

You may remember that some time back in the pages of the "ScanTech" column we talked about doing some what-if planning to organize your scanner and computer files in the event of a disaster or major emergency occurring in your area. One scenario we didn't even think of including in that list of "what ifs" was a major oil spill occurring deep under water off our own shores. That simply wouldn't, couldn't happen.

But when the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana on April 20, killing 11 workers and unleashing a manmade environmental catastrophe, our assumptions were proved tragically wrong. And because of the tremendous volume of oil gushing forth over a painfully long period, the extent of the effect on lives, livelihoods, communities, wildlife, and the greater environment throughout the Gulf region is staggering. As the wind, waves, ocean currents, and events still unknown continue to spread the oil, more communities in more states may be impacted.

Monitoring: What, Where, And When

It's rare that we get to cover a disaster in progress, given the magazine lead times and production schedule. Unfortunately, this one looks like it's going to be around for a long time to come, so we're able to offer suggested frequencies for many agencies that are likely to be involved.

"Since this is such a large-scale disaster, involving the federal government, multiple states, innumerable agencies and businesses, both large and small, as well as local commercial interests and volunteers, communications traffic will be heavy."

Many of these suggestions are necessarily drawn from speculation and educated guesses on my part since I'm not close enough to hear any of the action. If you are near the scene—and given the extent of the spill, a lot of our readers will be—perhaps you can let me know how close I am or what I've missed and we can follow up in the future.

Since this is such a large-scale disaster, involving the federal government, multiple states, innumerable agencies and businesses, both large and small, as well as local commercial interests and volunteers, communications traffic will be heavy. Much of it will not be monitorable, unfortunately. Top level communications no doubt are taking place on cell phones and in face-to-face meetings and other traffic will be encrypted. But this is

Ken Reiss is *Pop'Comm*'s "ScanTech" columnist.

an event of historic proportions, and if you're nearby, you owe it to yourself to try to catch what you can.

At this stage, listening to the situation is probably going to involve mostly cleanup operations and logistics communications. Getting workers to and from both maritime sites and on shore cleanup sites, controlling traffic and managing supplies and personnel requires a lot of coordination and you may be able to catch some of it on your scanner, depending on

Steve Henne communicates with personnel on the bridge as the crew aboard the motor vessel *Poppa John* train to deploy fire-resistant, oil-containment boom off the coast of Venice, Louisiana. The crew was being trained to deploy the boom for possible controlled burns. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Kelley)

Cullan Pugh, ordinary seaman aboard the tug *Resolute*, uses a high-pressure fire hose to wash oil from the hull of a fishing vessel as part of a decontamination process about 15 miles south of Dauphin Island, Alabama. Vessel decontamination is required for all oiled vessels before they are permitted to enter Mobile Bay and various ports throughout the Gulf of Mexico. (US Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Tasha Tully)

Jason Duke, a geographic information systems coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discusses communication methods with Charles LeBlanc, an airboat contractor, in South Pass, Louisiana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing on-the-ground intelligence on oil sightings and clean up methods to the Unified Area Command located in Robert, Louisiana. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Stephen Lehmann)

how close you are to one of the literally hundreds of cleanup sites.

Closer to the ports, you should find ships coming and going, and possibly some operational chit chat as they do. If you're close to the beaches and marshes that are being affected by the oil spill, listen for radio traffic involving the coordination of supply and personnel transport.

Don't forget to check some of the business channels, too. All sorts of local contractors are being used to help keep the operations moving, from food and supplies to toilet facilities. The cleanup operation is a big logistical event all on its own. You might also want to check the FRS frequencies if you're close enough to the coast, as there might be some business or casual use of those radios as well.

BP

As the owner of the gushing well, British Petroleum is, of course, the primary company involved in the disaster, and has primary responsibility for the response and cleanup. BP has a few licensed business channels which may be

Workers, contracted by BP, clean up oil on the beaches in Port Fourchon, Louisiana, during night operations. Night operations allow workers to clean up while the tide is out. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Ann Marie Gorden)

Frequency Suggestions For Gulf Disaster Monitoring

BP

BP has a few licenses that show up in an FCC search. The listings for the Louisiana area are follows:

BP America, Inc.	153.47000
BP America, Inc.	153.47000
BP America, Inc.	153.62750
BP America, Inc.	153.62750
BP America, Inc.	153.62750
BP America, Inc.	158.25000
BP America, Inc.	158.25000
BP America, Inc.	159.98250
BP America, Inc.	159.98250
BP America, Inc.	464.46250
BP America, Inc.	469.46250
BP Oil Pipeline Company	49.24000
BP Oil Pipeline Company	49.24000
BP Oil Pipeline Company	49.24000
BP Oil Pipeline Company	49.24000

Marine Frequencies for the U.S.

6	156.300	Inter-ship Safety
7	156.350	Commercial
8	156.400	Commercial
9	156.450	Commercial
10	156.500	Commercial
11	156.550	Commercial
12	156.600	Port Operations
13	156.650	Navigational
14	156.700	Port Operations
15	156.750	Environmental
16	156.800	Distress-Calling
17	156.850	State Control
18	156.900	Commercial
19	156.950	Commercial
20	157.000	Port Operations
21	157.050	Coast Guard
22	157.100	Coast Guard
23	157.150	Coast Guard
24	157.200	Marine Telephone
25	157.250	Marine Telephone
26	157.300	Marine Telephone
27	157.350	Marine Telephone
28	157.400	Marine Telephone
65	156.275	Port Operations
66	156.325	Port Operations
67	156.375	Commercial
68	156.425	Non-Commercial
69	156.475	Non-Commercial
70	156.525	Non-Commercial
71	156.575	Non-Commercial
72	156.625	Non-Commercial
73	156.675	Port Operations
74	156.725	Port Operations
75	156.775	
76	156.825	
77	156.875	Oil Tankers
78	156.925	Non-Commercial
79	156.975	Commercial
80	157.025	Commercial
81	157.075	Coast Guard
82	157.125	Coast Guard
83	157.175	Coast Guard
84	157.225	Marine Telephone
85	157.275	Marine Telephone
86	157.325	Marine Telephone
87	157.375	Marine Telephone
88	157.425	Commercial

Family Radio Service

1	462.5625
2	462.5875
3	462.6125
4	462.6375
5	462.6625
6	462.6875
7	462.7125
8	467.5625
9	467.5875
10	467.6125
11	467.6375
12	467.6625
13	467.6875
14	467.7125

Coast Guard

Air Operations

345.0	Operations Primary	AM Mode
237.9	Operations Secondary	AM Mode
326.15	Air-to-Ground Primary	AM Mode
379.05	Air-to-Ground Secondary	AM Mode

Marine Channels Reserved for Coast Guard use only

157.050	CH 21A
157.100	CH 22A
157.150	CH 23A
157.075	CH 81A
157.125	CH 82A
157.175	CH 83A

Other Coast Guard Frequencies:
139.9750, 140.4750, 140.7250, 141.6125,150.7250,141.5500, 150.3000, 162.0500, 162.1250, 162.2500, 162.3250, 163.0500*, 163.1375, 164.3000, 164.3125, 164.5500, 164.5625, 164.9000, 164.9125, 165.2625, 165.3125, 165.3250, 165.3375, 166.1875, 167.9000, 168.8625, 171.2375, 172.3125
* May be dedicated to use in the New Orleans area

MMS/BOE

The much-maligned Minerals Management Service, since renamed the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement—or Bureau of Ocean Energy (BOE) for short, was the federal agency with direct supervision of offshore drilling. While BOE does not appear to be involved in direct cleanup operations, it will no doubt be tracking the progress. Like all federal radio after 9/11, these are likely to be DES encrypted, so there may not be much to listen to even if you hear a signal.

Frequency	Description
166.37500	Helicopters

States

Louisiana

New Orleans Port Authority
866.3875 866.8375 867.11250c 868.35 868.725

The state of Louisiana has established a new 700-MHz trunked system for the use of statewide law enforcement as well as other agencies. Below are the frequencies and location information for this APCO-25 digital system.

Name	Freqs								
Pan Am - N.O.	769.16875c	769.41875a	769.56875	770.00625	770.33125	770.60625	770.85625	771.20625	
	771.60625	772.13125	772.38125	772.63125	772.95625	773.20625	773.45625	774.03125a	774.78125
Bridge City	769.50625	769.70625c	769.95625a	770.10625	770.53125	770.78125	771.10625	771.35625	771.65625
	771.93125	772.28125	772.58125	772.88125	773.08125a	773.38125	773.53125a	774.28125	774.53125
Slidell	769.09375	770.20625c	770.45625a	772.75625	773.05625a	773.30625	773.55625	774.23125	774.48125
La Place	769.65625c								
Buras	764.16875a	764.41875a	769.15625c						
St Rosalie									
[DORMANT]	764.20625a	764.45625c	764.70625a	764.95625a	765.45625				
Abita Springs	770.16875c	770.41875a							
Sheridan	771.33125	771.85625	772.18125	772.53125	772.93125	773.09375a	773.34375c	774.09375	774.40625
Baton Rouge	764.16875	764.41875	764.66875a	764.91875	765.16875a	766.95625	769.19375c	773.85625	774.20625
	774.95625								
Geismar	764.21875	764.46875a	764.71875	764.96875	765.21875	765.46875	765.71875	769.21875c	770.50625
	771.13125	771.43125	771.68125	771.98125	772.30625				
St. James	769.15625c	769.40625a							
Larose	769.35625	769.68125c	770.25625	771.18125	771.50625	771.75625	772.00625	774.09375	
Chef Menteur									
[DORMANT]	765.18125c								
LSU - BR	769.16875c	770.41875a	770.66875a						
Hammond	769.20625c								
Gray	769.18125c	769.78125	770.03125	770.30625	770.69375	770.94375	771.29375	771.70625	771.95625
	772.23175	772.48125							
Wilmer	769.08125	769.69375c	769.94375a	770.35625	770.83125	771.15625	771.40625	771.80625	772.10625
Reggio									
[DORMANT]	764.21875	764.46875	764.71875	764.96875c	765.21875c				
Abbeville	769.15625c	769.40625a							
Berwick	764.20625	764.45625	764.95625	765.84375	769.30625	769.66875c	770.55625	770.71875	770.96875
	774.70625								
Lafayette	769.18125c	774.30625a							
Jennings	769.65625c	769.90625a							
Jeanerette	769.20625c								
Lake Charles	769.20625c	769.78125	770.05625	770.45625a	770.68125	770.90625	771.35625	771.65625	772.15625
	772.40625	773.31875	773.53125	773.81875	774.05625	774.31875			
Hackberry	769.18125c	769.43125a							
Rockefeller	764.16875c	764.66875	765.16875						
Vinton	769.15625c	769.40625a	769.70625	769.95625	770.16875	770.96975			
Baywood	770.18125c	773.55625	773.80625						
Parks	769.69375c	769.94375a							
Ramah	765.96875	770.16875c	775.08125a						
West Baton									
Rouge	769.68125c	769.93125a							
Sage Hill	764.20625c	764.45625a	765.19375	769.70625a	770.30625	775.58125			
Parker Rd.	770.68125c								
Iberville	769.71875c	774.59375	774.83125a						
Livingston	770.21875c	770.46875a							
Dry Creek	769.69375c	769.94375a							
Ville Platte	770.09375a	770.33125	771.08125	771.43125	771.70625	774.09375c			
Opelousas	769.66875c	769.91875a							
Jackson	770.71875c								
Greensburg	770.69375c	770.94375a							
Rosepine	769.16875c	769.41875a	770.70625	770.95625	774.06875	774.34375			
Vermilion	769.68125c								
DeQuincy	769.66875c	769.91875a							
Acadia	769.21875c	769.46875a	769.61875	769.95625	770.53125	771.83125	772.09375	772.43125	
Oak Grove									
Leesville	769.21875c								
Scott	770.19375c	770.76875a							
Sulphur	769.35625	769.45625a	769.65625a	771.03165	773.06875	773.34375	773.58125a	773.93125	774.40625
	774.65625	774.78125	774.84375c						
Pointe Coupee	770.20625a	770.45625c	773.84375a						
Theriot	769.25625	770.16875c	770.66875	770.91875	773.33125	866.15	866.7	868.8875	
Merryville	769.71875c	769.96875a							
Arsene LeBleu	769.45620c	773.04375a	773.29375	773.55625	773.79375	774.03125	774.29375	774.53125	774.65625
	774.78125	774.84375a							
Assumption	769.84375	770.44375	771.86875	772.14375	773.83125a	774.58125c			
Trailer 96	769.14375c								

Trailer 98	770.16875c								
Trailer 99	769.14375c								
Trailer 100	775.10000c	775.60000a							
N. Simulcast									
N.O. Metro	765.28125a	765.55625	766.73125	774.13125	774.65625	775.15625	854.6125	858.6125	866.1625
	866.2125	866.4625	866.5625	866.6875	866.9875	867.0375	867.3625	867.575	867.7375
	867.8	868.1375	868.1625	868.275	868.47500a	868.6	868.675	868.75	868.85000a
	868.90000c								
S. Simulcast									
N.O. Metro	766.28125	766.60625	773.15625	773.70625	774.20625	774.70625a	866.1	866.4875	867.475
	867.8375	868.0625	868.2	868.56250a	868.63750a	868.80000c			
Kenner	764.30625	765.83125a	766.98125	773.03125	774.38125	775.48125	867.77500a	868.52500c	
Airport - MSY	774.95625	775.40625	775.65625a	775.90625c	868.87500a				
Buras	764.50625	764.75625	773.53125	868.325	868.975				
Lafitte	764.77500a	851.80000a	856.2375	857.2375	858.2375	859.23750c	860.46250a		
Leeville	773.98125	774.45625	775.20625a	775.70625a	866.58750a	867.63750c			
Bayou Gauche	770.05625c	771.41875	771.81875	772.33125	772.50625a	772.71875			
Hahnville	770.36875	771.30625	771.55625c	772.20625a	772.83125	773.24375			
Monroe	774.83125c								
Winnfield N.	770.18125c								
Delhi	770.30625	771.08125	771.50625	771.83125	773.06875c	774.31875a			
Chopin	770.68125c								
Hagewood	769.70625c								
Hicks	770.21875c								
Farmerville	769.68125c								
Minden	770.19375c								
Site 3-011	769.20625c								
Bastrop	770.40625c								
Greenwood	769.94375c								
Ruston	770.16875c								
Hineston	769.19375c	769.40625a							
Newellton	769.85625	770.33125	771.28125	771.53125	771.78125a	773.84375c			
Transylvania	773.34375c								
Alexandria	769.15625c	769.16875a	769.75625	770.03125	770.75625	771.00625	771.25625	771.65625	771.93125
Avoyelles	769.20625c	770.25625a							
Bellevue	768.65625c	769.18125c	769.83125	770.10625	770.35625	770.60625			
Bernice	769.16250c								
Calhoun	769.19375c								
Columbia	769.66875c								
Ferriday	770.19375c	770.44375a	770.78125	771.03125	771.68125	772.28125			
Homer	769.20625c								
Jena	769.21875c	769.43125a	769.60625	769.78125a	771.45625	771.75625	772.05625		
Jonesboro	769.18125c								
Mansfield	769.19375c								
Many	769.18125c								
Marion	769.28125	769.50625	769.66250c	769.80625	770.08125	770.58125	770.60625	770.85625	
	771.03125	771.10625	771.15625	771.20625	771.60625	771.78125	771.90625	772.55625	772.81875
	774.8875								
Oak Grove	769.20625c								
Oakdale	769.44375c								
Plain Dealing	769.21875c								
Ringgold	769.08125a	769.65625c							
Sentell	774.84375c								
Tallulah	769.35625	769.5125	769.56875	770.00625	770.21875c	770.33125	770.46875a	770.60625	770.85625
	771.20625	771.28125	771.43125	771.53125	771.60625	771.78125	771.88125		
	772.08125	772.13125	772.20625	772.25625	772.38125	772.40625	772.56875	772.63125	772.95625
	773.20625	773.45625	773.65625	773.90625					
Wheeling	769.59375	769.68125c	770.03125	770.08125	771.00625	771.23125	771.55625	771.71875	771.83125
	772.30625								
Shreveport	769.15625c	769.40625a							

Mississippi

Emergency Management

45.92000	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
45.96000	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
46.00000	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
46.04000	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
453.56250	MEMA Emergency communictions system
453.66250	MEMA Emergency communictions system
453.76250	MEMA Emergency communictions system

Dept of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

44.96000	Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks State Parks
45.00000	Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks Game Warden

F&W Temporary Repeaters

This system of temporary repeaters will be used in the event of a major emergency as a backup, or secondary system to the F&W Sat Net

151.24250	F&W Temporary Repeaters
151.25750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
151.27250	F&W Temporary Repeaters
151.28750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
151.33250	F&W Temporary Repeaters
151.42250	F&W Temporary Repeaters
151.43750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
151.45250	F&W Temporary Repeaters
151.46750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
159.23250	F&W Temporary Repeaters
159.27750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
159.29250	F&W Temporary Repeaters
159.30750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
159.33750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
159.39750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
159.42750	F&W Temporary Repeaters
159.44250	F&W Temporary Repeaters

Alabama

Emergency Management Agency

Frequency	Tone	Description
453.72500	127.3 PL	Birmingham (Jefferson Cnty)
453.65000	151.4 PL	Cullman (Cullman Cnty)
453.72500	151.4 PL	Dothan (Houston Cnty)
453.40000	151.4 PL	Dozier (Crenshaw Cnty)
453.40000	146.2 PL	Florence (Lauderdale Cnty)
453.42500	146.2 PL	Grove Hill (Clarke Cnty)
453.42500	173.8 PL	Huntsville (Madison Cnty)
453.72500	173.8 PL	Linden (Marengo Cnty)
453.72500	173.8 PL	Livingston (Sumter Cnty)
453.65000	173.8 PL	Lottie (Baldwin Cnty)
453.40000	127.3 PL	Mt. Cheaha (Cleburne Cnty)
453.40000	146.2 PL	Salem (Lee Cnty)
453.40000	173.8 PL	Spanish Fort (Baldwin Cnty)
453.65000	146.2 PL	Tuscaloosa (Tuscaloosa Cnty)
453.65000	127.3 PL	Wetumpka (Elmore Cnty)
453.40000	CSQ	S-1
453.42500	CSQ	S-2
453.65000	CSQ	S-3
453.72500	CSQ	S-4

Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources
Statewide Channel Plan

Frequency	Description
159.46500	Repeater
159.46500	Car-to-Car
155.01000	State Net

Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Frequency	Tone	Description
151.25000		Cherokee Cnty
159.46500		Calhoun, Cherokee Counties
159.46500	114.8 PL	Madison Cnty

Florida

Dept of Environmental Protection
Northwest Region - District 1

Frequency	Tone	Description
44.76000	CSQ	Big Lagoon State Pk (Escambia Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Big Lagoon State Pk (Escambia Cnty)
151.07750		Big Lagoon State Pk (Escambia Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Blackwater River State Pk (Santa Rosa Cnty)
158.78250		Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Pk (Franklin)
44.76000	CSQ	Falling Waters State Pk (Washington Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Florida Caverns State Pk (Jackson Cnty)
155.52750		Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Pk (Okaloosa Cnty)
159.09750		Grayton Beach State Pk (Santa Rosa Beach)
44.76000	CSQ	Grayton Beach State Pk (Wallton Cnty)
155.06250	103.5 PL	Henderson Beach State Pk (Okaloosa Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Maclay Gardens State Pk (Leon Cnty)
155.00250		Ochlockonee River State Pk (Franklin Cnty)
151.01750		Ochlockonee River State Pk (Wakulla Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	St. Andrews State Pk (Bay Cnty)
159.09750		St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (Franklin Cnty)
159.15750		St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (Gulf Cnty)
155.07750		T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Pk (Gulf Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Three Rivers State Pk (Jackson Cnty)
453.65000		Topsail Hill Preserve State Pk (Wallton Cnty)
155.61000		Torreya State Pk (Liberty Cnty)

Northeast Region - District 2

Frequency	Tone	Description
44.76000	CSQ	Fort Clinch State Pk (Fernandina Beach)
44.96000	CSQ	Fort Clinch State Pk (Fernandina Beach)
159.14250		Fort George Island Cultural State Pk (Duval Cnty)
158.82750	131.8 PL	Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Pk (Citrus Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Ichetucknee Springs State Pk (Columbia Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Ichetucknee Springs State Pk (Columbia Cnty)
155.76750		Ichetucknee Springs State Pk (Columbia Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Little Talbot Island State Pk (Duval Cnty)
151.01000		Little Talbot Island State Pk (Duval Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Pk (Clay Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Pk (Clay Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	O'Leno State Pk (Columbia Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	O'Leno State Pk (Columbia Cnty)
154.06250		O'Leno State Pk (Columbia Cnty)
155.80500		Paynes Prairie Preserve State Pk (Alachua Cnty)
159.14250		Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Pk (Duval Cnty)
155.88750		Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Pk (Hamilton Cnty)

Central Region - District 3

Frequency	Tone	Description
44.76000	CSQ	Anastasia State Pk (St. Augustine)
44.96000	CSQ	Anastasia State Pk (St. Augustine)
159.21750	103.5 PL	Anastasia State Pk (St. Augustine)
153.76250	103.5 PL	Blue Springs State Pk (Volusia Cnty)
155.73750	103.5 PL	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Pk
44.76000	CSQ	Lake Griffin State Pk (Lake Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Lake Griffin State Pk (Lake Cnty)
158.82750		Lake Kissimmee State Pk (Polk Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Lake Louisa State Pk ((Lake Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Lake Louisa State Pk (Lake Cnty)
154.80750		Lake Louisa State Pk (Lake Cnty)

154.98750		North Peninsula State Pk (Flagler Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Ravines Gardens State Pk (Palatka)
44.96000	CSQ	Ravines Gardens State Pk (Palatka)
158.78250	103.5 PL	Tomoka State Pk (Ormond Beach, Volusia Cnty)
155.43750		Wekiwa Springs State Pk (Orange Cnty - North)
155.96250	103.5 PL	Wekiwa Springs State Pk (Orange Cnty - South)
44.76000	CSQ	Wekiwa Springs State Pk (Orange Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Wekiwa Springs State Pk (Orange Cnty)

Southwest Region - District 4

Frequency	Tone	Description
44.76000	CSQ	Anclote Key Preserve/ Caladesi Island/ Honeymoon Island State Pk
44.76000	CSQ	Cayo Costa State Pk (Lee Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Cayo Costa State Pk (Lee Cnty)
156.21750		Collier-Seminole State Pk (Collier Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Pk (Collier Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Pk (Collier Cnty)
159.21750		Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Pk
44.76000	CSQ	Highlands Hammock State Pk (Highlands Cnty)
158.79750		Highlands Hammock State Pk (Highlands Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Hillsborough River State Pk (Hillsborough Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Hillsborough River State Pk (Hillsborough Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Little Manatee River State Pk (Hillsborough Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Little Manatee River State Pk (Manatee Cnty)
44.76000	CSQ	Lovers Key State Pk (Lee Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Lovers Key State Pk (Lee Cnty)

Southeast Region - District 5

Jonathan Dickinson State Pk utilizes the Martin Cnty Trunked System.

Frequency	Tone	Description
44.76000	CSQ	Bahia Honda State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
44.96000	CSQ	Bahia Honda State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
158.78250	179.9 PL	Bahia Honda State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
158.76750		Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Pk (Dade Cnty)
156.21750	226 DPL	Curry Hammock State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
154.16750		Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
158.76750	156.7 PL	Fort Pierce Inlet State Pk (St. Lucie Cnty)
158.85750	156.7 PL	Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
159.21750	103.5 PL	Hugh Taylor Birch State Recreation Area (Fort Lauderdale)
44.76000	CSQ	John D. MacArthur Beach State Pk (Palm Beach Cnty)
155.06250	156.7 PL	John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
156.21750	156.7 PL	John U. Lloyd Beach State Pk (Dania)
158.82750		Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Pk/ Indian Key Historic State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
159.21750	179.9 PL	Long Key State Pk (Monroe Cnty)
159.26250	179.9 PL	Oleta River State Pk (North Miami Beach)
155.00250		Savannas Preserve State Pk (Saint Lucie Cnty)

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Frequency	Description
151.31000	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
151.41500	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
151.35500	Tactical/Car-to-Car
160.14000	Central
160.42500	Northwest
160.42500	Washinton, Holmes, and Jackson (Chipley)
161.44500	Northeast

Texas

Texas Statewide Public Safety

This system is APCO25 on VHF, so you'll need a digital receiver to hear any of the traffic.

Frequency	Tone	Description
155.46	114 NAC	Base Units A1
154.68	114 NAC	Mobile Input to Base A1
155.4675	118 NAC	Base Units A2
154.6875	118 NAC	Mobile Input to Base A2
155.445	123 NAC	Base Units B1
154.695	123 NAC	Mobile Input to Base B1
155.4525	128 NAC	Base Units B2
154.7025	128 NAC	Mobile Input to Base B2
159.21	162 NAC	Repeater 10 A
159.21	107 NAC	Repeater 11 A
159.21	111 NAC	Repeater 12 A
159.21	119 NAC	Repeater 13 A
159.21	123 NAC	Repeater 14 A
159.21	127 NAC	Repeater 15 A
159.21	137 NAC	Repeater 16 A
159.21	141 NAC	Repeater 17 A
159.21	146 NAC	Repeater 18 A
159.21	151 NAC	Repeater 19 A
159.2175	162 NAC	Repeater 10 B
159.2175	107 NAC	Repeater 11 B
159.2175	111 NAC	Repeater 12 B
159.2175	119 NAC	Repeater 13 B
159.2175	123 NAC	Repeater 14 B
159.2175	127 NAC	Repeater 15 B
159.2175	137 NAC	Repeater 16 B
159.2175	141 NAC	Repeater 17 B
159.2175	146 NAC	Repeater 18 B
159.2175	151 NAC	Repeater 19 B
155.5125	162 NAC	Repeater 20
159.0975	162 NAC	Repeater 21
155.505	162 NAC	Criminal Law Enforcement - Surveillance, Tactical

Texas Wide Area Radio Network

This system is used statewide by public safety agencies. The Houston region (called region 2) has the most direct exposure to the gulf oil spill. It is a trunked system running Type II Motorola.

DPS Houston

Frequency	Tone	Description
155.4675	118 NAC	Houston Dispatch
159.21	107 NAC	Huffman - Dispatch
155.46	162.2 PL	Houston wrecker dispatch
155.37		Jersey Village
155.3775		Jersey Village
155.445	162.2 PL	Jersey Village
155.4525		Jersey Village
159.09		Jersey Village
159.0975		Jersey Village
159.21		Jersey Village

159.2175		Jersey Village
159.09		Houston
159.0975		Houston
155.505	162.2 PL	Houston
155.5125		Houston
159.21		La Porte

DPS Beaumont

Frequency	Tone	Description
155.4525	128 NAC	Beaumont - Dispatch
155.37	127.3 PL	Beaumont
155.3775		Beaumont
155.445	162.2 PL	Beaumont
155.46	162.2 PL	Beaumont
155.4675		Beaumont
159.09		Beaumont
159.0975		Beaumont
159.21		Beaumont
159.2175		Beaumont
155.505		Beaumont
155.5125		Beaumont

DPS Bryan

Frequency	Tone	Description
155.46		Bryan - Dispatch
159.2175		Cameron - Dispatch
159.21		Flynn - Dispatch
155.3775		Bryan
155.445	162.2 PL	Bryan
155.4525		Bryan
155.4675		Bryan
159.09		Bryan
159.0975		Bryan
159.21		Bryan
159.2175		Bryan
155.505	162.2 PL	Bryan
155.5125		Bryan
155.37	CSQ	Bryan
155.37	CSQ	Bryan
155.3775		Bryan
155.445	162.2 PL	Bryan
155.4525		Bryan
155.46	162.2 PL	Bryan
155.4675		Bryan
159.09		Cameron
159.21	141.3 PL	Cameron
155.46	162.2 PL	Flynn
155.4675		Flynn

DPS Conroe

Frequency	Tone	Description
155.445	123 NAC	Conroe Dispatch
159.2175	151 NAC	Huntsville Dispatch
155.37	127.3 PL	Conroe
155.3775		Conroe
155.445	162.2 PL	Conroe
155.4525		Conroe
155.46	162.2 PL	Conroe
155.4675		Conroe
159.09		Huntsville
159.0975		Huntsville

DPS Lufkin

Frequency	Tone	Description
155.4675	118 NAC	Lufkin - Dispatch
159.21	137 NAC	Center - Dispatch
159.21	111 NAC	Shepherd - Dispatch
159.2175	123 NAC	Jasper - Dispatch
155.3775		Lufkin
155.445	162.2 PL	Lufkin
155.4525		Lufkin
155.46	162.2 PL	Lufkin
159.09		Lufkin
159.0975		Lufkin
155.37	127.3 PL	Lufkin
159.2175		Lufkin
155.505	162.2 PL	Lufkin
155.5125		Lufkin
159.2175		Center
155.46	162.2 PL	Coldsprings
155.4675		Coldsprings
159.09		Coldsprings
159.0975		Coldsprings
159.21		Coldsprings
159.2175		Coldsprings
155.46	162.2 PL	Jasper
155.4675		Jasper
159.09		Jasper
159.0975		Jasper
159.21		Jasper

DPS Pierce

Frequency	Tone	Description
155.4525	128 NAC	Pierce - Dispatch
159.2175	123 NAC	Columbus - Dispatch
155.535	146 NAC	Richmond - Dispatch
159.21	127 NAC	Bay City - Dispatch
155.37	127.3 PL	Pierce
155.3775		Pierce
155.445		Pierce
155.46	162.2 PL	Pierce
155.4675		Pierce
159.09		Pierce
159.0975		Pierce
159.21		Pierce
159.2175		Pierce
155.445	162.2 PL	Glidden
155.4525		Glidden
155.46	162.2 PL	Glidden
155.4675		Glidden
159.09		Glidden
159.0975		Glidden
159.21		Glidden

DPS Texas City

Frequency	Tone	Description
155.5125	162 NAC	Texas City; Galveston Cnty Dispatch
159.0975	162 NAC	Texas City - Dispatch
155.685	162 NAC	Angleton; Brazoria Cnty Dispatch
155.37	127.3 PL	Texas City
155.3775		Texas City
155.445	162.2 PL	Texas City
155.4525		Texas City
155.4675		Texas City
159.2175		Texas City
159.09		Danciger
159.0975		Danciger
159.21		Danciger
159.2175		Danciger
159.21		Hitchcock
159.2175		Hitchcock
155.505	162.2 PL	Santa Fe
155.5125		Santa Fe

All frequency information courtesy of www.radioreference.com

in use near the ground cleanup operations and at the ports for launch. No doubt they are also in use at the site of the well itself, but that is probably too far out in the Gulf for normal reception of low power handheld receivers.

Federal Response

Most of the government response seems to have fallen to the US Coast Guard as the primary agency on the scene. The Coast Guard is coordinating resources and assisting in actual cleanup and wildlife rescue in an ongoing operation. Of course, the maritime frequencies are available for any aspect of the operation, as well as a few specific channels the Coast Guard has reserved for its own use. If you're close enough to any of the operations to hear ship traffic, you'll likely find out first on the marine frequencies. Air support is also crucial in the effort so look at aviation frequencies as well.

States

Each state affected has its own operations on the scene, monitoring the situation if nothing else. Louisiana has been involved from the start as that was the first state affected by the oil spill and has felt the deepest economic impact so far, with the loss of fishing and other marine-related business.

Mississippi, Alabama, and now Florida have also been hit. The impact on Florida tourism can't be underestimated, and that state has reacted swiftly in an attempt to deal both with the actual oil as well as the public relations impact of the spill. Texas is not out of the woods, either. Plus, hurricane season and the loop current may yet spread the oil both farther inland and up along the coast.

State and local responses will also involve a variety of radio communications. There may be police activity directing traffic in and out of affected areas or coordinating cleanup operations. There is also likely a presence of a state Department of Natural Resources, Parks, or Tourism involved. Again, much of the important traffic will likely be by cell phone, but if you're close enough to the action, it's worth a listen to any of the related frequencies to see what you can hear.

Check out the suggested targets in the accompanying tables. We invite you to contact us and share what you discovered.

Deepwater Horizon: A Brief History

The Deepwater Horizon was a very sophisticated oil exploration and drilling platform. It was built in 2001 and delivered to a subsidiary of Transocean and then leased to BP for its operations through 2013. The rig, measuring 396 by 256 feet, was rated as capable of operating in waters of up to 8,000 feet deep, and then drilling 30,000 feet down. In 2009, however, the Deepwater Horizon was used to complete the deepest oil well ever drilled, at 35,000 feet. Until the April explosion, it was by any measure a successful oil platform.

In February 2010, work began on the lower Mississippi Canyon project, about 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana in water 5,000 feet deep. The well was considered exploratory and was planned to a depth of 18,360 feet (including the 5,000 feet of water above it). It was then to be plugged and left for later operation by another rig as a production well.

The oil had been found and the final processes of sealing and capping the well were in progress on April 20 when an explosion occurred on the Deepwater Horizon. A column of seawater erupted onto the rig, shooting 240 feet into the air. Shortly afterward, a combination of mud, water, and methane gas followed. The gas soon became the primary component and then ignited into a series of small explosions and then a larger one engulfing the rig in a firestorm. When it erupted, 126 people were on board, and 115 were evacuated, many with injuries. Tragically, 11 were unaccounted for and presumed killed in the explosion. Firefighters sprayed water trying to cool the rig and get the blaze under control, but after 36 hours, the rig sank, leaving the blown-out well ruptured and spewing oil.

The Deepwater Horizon had been involved in other incidents and cited for safety violations during its operation. There is an ongoing investigation into both the specifics of this incident and the oversight role that government agencies should have in preventing such disasters. Regardless of the findings, which may not be known for a very long time, the leaking oil is now the worst oil spill in the history of oil exploration. Some progress has been made in stemming the flow and recovering oil at the well site, but a massive amount of oil is polluting the gulf and its shores for hundreds of miles.