

June 5, 2010

Press Briefing by National Incident Commander Deepwater Horizon Incident Joint Information Center

THEODORE, Ala. - Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the National Incident Commander for the Deepwater BP Oil Spill Response, briefed the media Saturday morning at the Theodore staging area.

OPERATOR: Good morning everybody. We're here at the Theodore, Alabama, staging area to give you the daily update on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response operation.

Just a reminder of the process, how we'll do this is Admiral Allen will start with the opening remarks for about five or 10 minutes and then we'll do the question and answers, we'll do 10 minutes from in the room and then 10 minutes from on the phone.

Just ask you to limit your questions to one so everyone gets an opportunity. Please state your name and affiliation when you ask your question. And with that I introduce Admiral Thad Allen, national incident commander.

ADMIRAL ALLEN: Thank you. Good morning folks. I'd like to talk a little bit this morning about the operations out in the Gulf for the containment—both those operations locally—and then just talk about the unique facility that we're at here at Theodore, Alabama.

Last week I was given the responsibility to do the daily press brief. I've been asked a lot of questions about why that was happening. One of the reasons we're doing a daily press brief with me, is I move around a lot and where I go the press follows.

And it gives us a chance to highlight the operation and the different parts of this operation around the Gulf. I think it's really important for us to understand why we're here in Theodore, Alabama today.

We're at a facility that is owned by Core Industries here in Mobile. And Core Industries is owned by a local gentleman named Russell Myles and the on scene project manager here is Sean Curry from Fairhope, Alabama.

They are supporting **Patriot Industries**, which is an oil spill response organization out of Long Beach, California, that has been deployed here by British Petroleum to set up basically a staging area and a base camp for operations all around the Gulf.

I want to compliment everybody that's involved in this operation. **Of the management, the team brought from California to operate constitutes only 10 percent of the workforce here.** Ninety percent of the people who are working in this staging area are local employees and the amount of business being generated with local contractors and the use of local hotels and facilities.

I'm talking to the folks here and it's having an extraordinary impact on the local community. So I want to just thank you. **This is a really good working model that we can emulate—we can emulate this in some other places around the Gulf.**

From there they do training. They just deployed boom equipment. They repair boom equipment. They decontaminate oil boom if that's needed. They handle oily waste and debris. Almost anything associated with the lifecycle of a cleanup operation for an oil spill can be supported out of this space here in Theodore. And we'll be hearing more about that as we—as we get into the brief.

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on what's going on out in the Gulf and then talk about some local issues.