Protection of worker and public health was one of BP’s highest priorities throughout the response to the Deepwater Horizon accident. We trained, equipped and monitored workers for potential exposures to oil and dispersants and provided support for one of the most rigorous seafood testing programs anywhere in the world.

Studies by federal and state scientists and independent researchers have concluded that exposures of oil, oil constituents and dispersants for response workers and the public were well below levels that might be expected to raise health and safety concerns.

Response Workers

In close coordination with government agencies, BP provided safety training and appropriate protective gear to response workers and closely monitored their safety. This included a health hazard evaluation by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

> The results of more than 30,000 air monitoring samples consistently showed that response workers and the public were not exposed to airborne concentrations of oil, oil constituents, or dispersants at levels above government mandated and recommended levels. The samples were collected by BP, the Coast Guard, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NIOSH and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The results of more than 30,000 air monitoring samples consistently showed that response workers and the public were not exposed to airborne concentrations of oil, oil constituents, or dispersants at levels above government mandated and recommended levels. The samples were collected by BP, the Coast Guard, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NIOSH and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).¹

> Independent analysis by ChemRisk confirmed that offshore response workers were not exposed to harmful levels of the volatile organic compounds typically found in fresh oil.

> Based on analysis of nearly 5,000 air samples, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene levels all fell well below federal limits.²

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT EXPERTS SAID:

“To date, no air sampling by OSHA detected any hazardous chemical at levels of concern.”

OSHA Fact Sheet
August 19, 2010

“Worker exposure to oil residue was typically observed to be limited, with no evidence of exposure to dispersant.”

NIOSH Report: “Health Hazard Evaluation of Deepwater Horizon Response Workers”
August 2011

> To further reduce dispersant exposure risks, aircraft crews were prohibited from spraying within two nautical miles of any vessel. In addition, use of aerial dispersant ended on July 19, 2010, shortly after the well was capped.

> No evidence of exposure to dispersants was found at shoreline cleaning sites, based on NIOSH’s evaluation of 67 worksites.³ Crews working in areas with even the heaviest residual oil had only limited opportunity for exposure because of the sandy or degraded nature of the oil and use of protective clothing.
Coastal Communities

An exhaustive effort was undertaken to protect and treat the Gulf Coast shoreline and identify possible health risks. Extensive sampling has found no evidence that oil or dispersants from the accident pose a health risk to those who live, work, and visit the region.

- Strict operational parameters were in place to help prevent public exposures to dispersants. For example, dispersants were applied by airplane more than three nautical miles offshore, and 98 percent of these applications occurred 10 or more miles from shore.5
- None of the 6,000 water samples analyzed as part of the Operational Science Advisory Team (OSAT-1) study exceeded EPA’s benchmarks for protection of human health.6
- Remaining residual oil in isolated sections of the shoreline is highly weathered and contains only a small fraction of compounds of concern. According to OSAT-2, weathered oil showed 86-98% depletion of total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), with concentrations well below EPA-established levels of concern for human health.7

Seafood Consumers

Gulf Coast seafood is among the most tested seafood in the world, and the FDA and Gulf States have consistently assured consumers that the seafood is safe to consume.

- NIOSH found that the most significant occupational health concerns were heat-related, and comprehensive, preventative management programs were implemented in coordination with OSHA and other agencies.4
- Seafood has consistently tested 100 to 1,000 times lower than FDA safety benchmarks for contaminants of concern.8
- Seafood samples tested for dispersants were all well below FDA levels of concern, with more than 99 percent of samples showing no detectable residue at all.9
- Federal and state-level testing continues. Extensive testing by Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi is funded by a $33.5 million commitment by BP.

Committed to Gulf Communities

BP has cooperated fully with independent and scientifically rigorous health studies, and reached a court-approved medical settlement in April 2012 with the Plaintiff’s Steering Committee.

- As part of the medical settlement, qualifying class members can receive medical consultations for 21 years through the Periodic Medical Consultation Program.
- BP has agreed to provide up to $105 million as part of the medical settlement to establish the Gulf Region Health Outreach Program, which will benefit communities across impacted areas of the Gulf. The outreach program is focused on strengthening local capacity to deliver primary care and mental behavioral health services and improving access to expertise in environmental medicine.
- In 2010, BP donated $52 million to boost mental health and social services across the Gulf states region.

We are committed to transparency, and we will update these facts if necessary and continue to share information about what we are doing to meet our commitments to the people of the Gulf Coast.