



P.O. Box 425 | Mathews, LA 70375
Telephone 985.537.7603 | Fax 985.532.8292



Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

Office of Emergency Preparedness

PRESS RELEASE

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Information on Vessel Decontamination Procedures

Lafourche Parish Government would like to inform boaters of decontamination procedures for vessels that have come in contact with the oil spill. Unified Command has decontamination stations open for vessels in 17 various locations around Louisiana, including a station at Port Fourchon. These stations will accommodate response vessels and commercial vessels, as well as recreational vessels.

Boaters wishing to contact a decontamination station while at sea can contact the Decontamination Dispatcher at (985) 493-3343, email at mc252decon@gmail.com or can hail dispatchers via VHF Channel 16.

The primary decontamination of oiled recreational vessels can occur at any of the 17 stations available. The station will provide initial decontamination to the point where the vessel is no longer emanating sheen, in accordance with standards established by the Unified Command. Final decontamination, at the request of the boater, includes removing all stains from the vessel hull and can be completed only at the Port Fourchon station at no cost.

Upon completion of the final decontamination in Port Fourchon, recreational vessel owners not satisfied with the cleaning will be provided documentation outlining BP's claims process. The Port Fourchon station is the only station where the public can acquire this documentation.

Commercial vessels may undergo gross decontamination at offshore cleaning station and then final decontamination at a designated berth or anchorage.

The primary focus of the decontamination operation is to expedite the cleanup of oiled vessels in a safe, organized manner while minimizing further damage to the environment.

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