

DEQ Activities Update
1000 HRS 3SEP05

- DEQ has had staff working around the clock manning our desk at EOC since even before Katrina came ashore
- We have marshaled and organized all our emergency response resources
- Boats and crews have been assisting in search and rescue.
- DEQ personnel are surveying the storm impact area, particularly industrial facilities from planes and boats to identify potential threats to public safety and the environment
- We have a number of assets conducting aerial reconnaissance and photography including the EPA ASPECT aircraft, HAWK helicopter mounted remote sensing, additional helicopters are expected shortly from EPA. The ASPECT aircraft has remote monitoring capabilities including radiation detectors, air sampling equipment, and sophisticated digital aerial photography and GPS capabilities. The HAWK system is capable of remote sensing of gas leaks and hydrocarbon releases.
- DEQ is also responding to reports provided by other emergency responders and the public. The telephone number to report environmental hazards to DEQ is (225) 342-1234. A toll-free number for reporting is also available (888) 763-5424
- We have stood up our laboratory assets for rapid turnaround environmental sample analyses
- Emergency declaration providing regulatory relief for emergency response and cleanup activities. Will be updating it today and post it to the web
- Requested and EPA has granted a fuel waiver providing flexibility for fuel use

- Coordinating with EPA and availing ourselves to support they can offer
 - Emergency response personnel
 - ASPECT aircraft with aerial photography and remote sensing capabilities
 - Boats and crews
 - Laboratory support
- We are coordinating with the Coast Guard Regional Response Team and LOSCO on coastal oil spill issues
- Coordinating with Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning Waterford III nuclear plant and facilities with radiation sources
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has provided a 19-member “strike team” to assist our emergency response activities. Many other state agencies are offering help.
- Organizing DEQ GIS resources to assist with aerial images, maps and georeferencing of areas of concern. There will be a satellite look-down on the affected area.
- Outside search and rescue, principal concerns right now are containers of large quantities of extremely hazardous materials at the industrial facilities, derailed and submerged rail tank cars, radioactive sources, major oil spills, and possible release of toxic materials in explosions and fires.
- Motiva Refinery has been granted a variance and is starting up. ExxonMobil and Valero have been granted a waiver to maximize gas production through modifications to their vapor recovery units. Shell and Valero operations have been given permission to drain their tanks which should allow them to have 10 percent more gas production.