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2010 GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL

Latest news, photos, videos from the BP Deepwater Horizon drilling disaster

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HOW TO HELP

BP's Deepwater Horizon Response Joint Information Center has offered the following numbers for residents:

- To report oiled wildlife, call **866.557.1401**
- To report oiled shoreline or request volunteer information, call **866.448.5816**

Breaking News >

Oil spill hearings: Rig had no power to fight fire after engines oversped

By **David Hammer, The Times-Picayune**
May 29, 2010, 9:14AM

This is an update from the joint hearings of the U.S. Coast Guard and Minerals Management Service held in Kenner on Saturday into the explosion and fire aboard the Deepwater Horizon oil rig on April 20, which killed 11 workers and created the Gulf of Mexico oil spill currently fouling Louisiana's coast.



Chris Granger / The Times-Picayune

Members of the Deepwater Horizon Joint Investigation team, from left, are: Lt. Robert Butts, USCG; Ross Wheatley, USCG; Capt. Hung Nguyen, USCG; David Dykes, MMS; Jason Mathews, MMS; and John McCarroll, MMS.

Testimony of motorman Paul Meinhart III

During the explosions April 20 on the Deepwater Horizon, the rig's diesel engines revved up and tripped an automatic power shut-off as gas seeped through ducts into the engine room, according to testimony Saturday in investigative hearings.

Motorman Paul Meinhart III testified that emergency generators didn't work after the first explosions rang out, and his subsequent attempts to manually start a backup electrical generator were also unsuccessful.

On Thursday, the rig's chief mate, David Young, testified that with no power, the rig's fire pumps didn't work and attempts to fight the fire were abandoned.

But given the enormity of the explosions from unexpected kicks of gas from the well below, Meinhart was skeptical that any power would have helped fight the fires.

"Due to the fact half the vessel was on fire at the time," he said.

Steve Gordon, a lawyer questioning Meinhart interrupted and continued the thought: "One more fire wouldn't have mattered, right?"

OIL SPILL VIDEO



Oil spill video: Reporters give latest 'Top Kill' news

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[Graphic shows how](#)

Register to volunteer through the [Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#) or through the [Sierra Club](#)

The Louisiana Bucket Brigade has created an "Oil Spill Crisis Map" that will allow Gulf Coast residents to report fishers out of work, endangered wildlife, oil on shore, oil sheens and other effects of the oil spill.

Reports can be made at the site, or by texting **504.272.7645**, e-mailing bpspillmap@gmail.com, or [Tweeting](#) with the hashtag [#BPspillmap](#). Eyewitness reports for the map require a description and location information such as an address or GPS coordinates.

The Greater New Orleans Foundation has opened the Gulf Coast Oil Spill Fund, which will benefit communities most affected by the oil spill in Plaquemines, St. Bernard and lower Jefferson parishes. Donations can be made online at www.gnof.org

The Ritz-Carlton New Orleans is working with Matter of Trust, an environmental nonprofit, to collect donations of nylons, hair and fur, which can be used in making booms for containing oil. Drop off donations at the Ritz-Carlton, 921 Canal St. Call **504.670.2817** for more information.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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DaVita - Monroe, LA

Certified Respiratory Therapist - Adult Critical
West Jefferson Medical Center - Marrero, LA

Full time front desk person
Confidential - New Orleans, LA

Phlebotomist-Laboratory
Slidell Memorial Hospital - Slidell, LA

Physical Therapy Assistant - SOS -

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Posted by **Gatorlawman II**

May 29, 2010, 10:19AM

what made it sink is what I want to know.

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Posted by **noobama**

May 29, 2010, 10:22AM

rumor has it was a North Korean suicide sub

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Posted by **renokid**

May 29, 2010, 10:23AM

You mean to tell me that in this day and age this rig didn't have sufficient gas detection to know that gas was seeping all the way into the engine room? I think we are in our third or fourth generation of detection devices, and I can't fathom a project of this magnitude didn't have warning systems that would have alerted when the smallest amount of gas hit the surface. None of this is adding up to this old field engineer.

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Posted by **WetlandsNOW**

May 29, 2010, 11:07AM

The testimony being given, while rather guarded, appears to not want to



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incriminate BP. thou they are the 'customer' and they called all the shots, Transocean, Dril-Quip, Halliburton and others all seem to indicate something was not right on the rig floor, yet no one will come out and say it.

This wasnt some fluke accident, warning signs were ignored, mud was removed, and the "shears" according to one guy are there 'just in case'.

Worse yet, MMS doesnt seem to have a clue as to what should or shouldnt be normal operating procedures, based on the questions they are asking.

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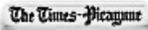
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