



Sarasota County Communications

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## **Sarasota County ends Deepwater Horizon state of emergency**

Sarasota County officials today lifted the local state of emergency declared in May in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Tuesday's action came after Governor Charlie Crist amended his executive order declaring a state of emergency from the oil spill, eliminating Sarasota County and 17 other counties. The state of emergency remains in place for seven counties in the Florida Panhandle.

Other counties eliminated from the Governor's Executive Order are Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties.

The Deepwater Horizon well ceased discharging oil on July 15 and no additional oil is expected to be released into the Gulf of Mexico. The state Emergency Operations Center is now at a Level 3 monitoring status.

Any suspected oil or tar ball sightings in Sarasota County should be reported to Sarasota County Environmental Services at 941-861-5000, and the state Watch Office at 1-800-320-0519 or 1-850-413-9900.

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