

NIOSH Report of BP Illness and Injury Data (April 23 – June 6, 2010)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



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Background

This report is designed to provide a basic overview of illness and injuries reported by responders involved in the Deepwater Horizon response. It will be updated on a regular basis as new data becomes available. The data utilized to produce this report was provided to NIOSH by BP safety officials, who are sharing their Health and Safety incidents database with CDC/NIOSH. This database is a collection of the information recorded by BP safety officials in the field for every known incident which affects the health and safety of spill responders. This includes BP employees, BP contracted workers, federal/state/local responders, and volunteers who seek care at a BP field medical facility. There may be some local workers involved in response efforts who do not fall under the supervision of the Unified Command, and thus are not included here. The incident forms are filled out by BP safety officials, as opposed to healthcare personnel, and do not contain strict medical diagnoses of injury or illness. The data include all injuries and illnesses recorded by BP safety officials, including minor injuries which are not OSHA reportable. This method of employer-generated data collection is standard occupational safety and health practice. BP is sharing the information for each incident, but the data it provides to NIOSH does not include the names of the BP employees, contract workers and volunteers. In addition, since the data is being collected by BP, NIOSH cannot independently verify the accuracy and completeness of the data.

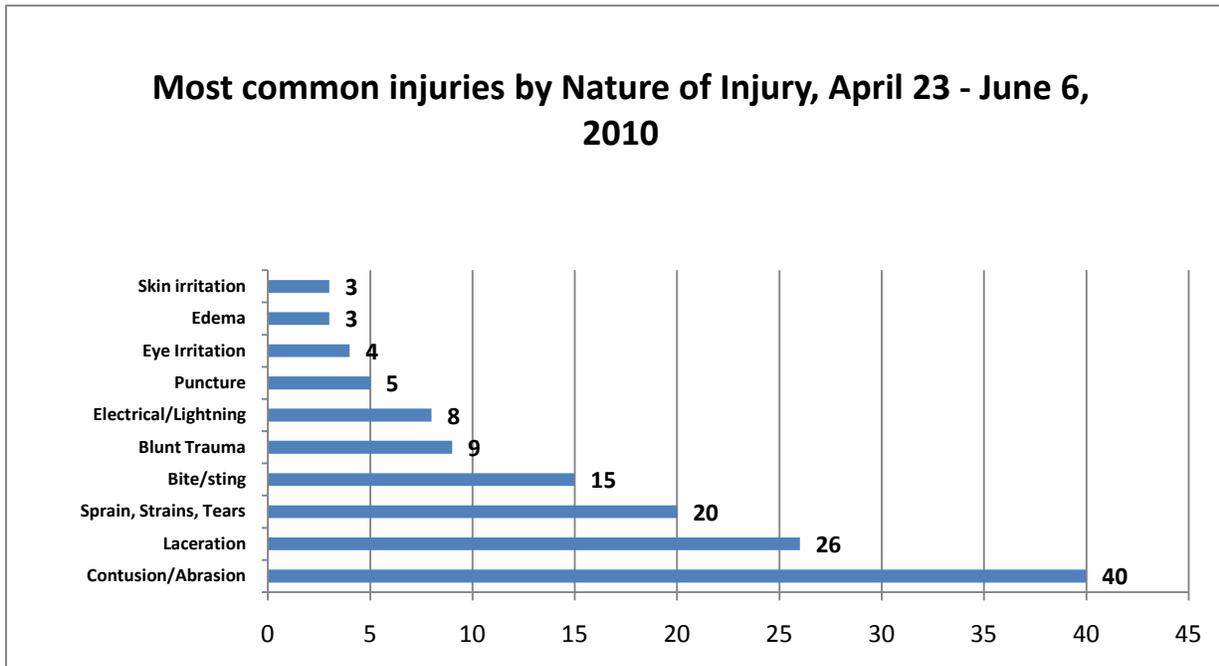
NIOSH is producing this report of illness and injuries to promote public health through enhanced awareness of the risks associated with response work in the Gulf. Additional information about specific occupational risks will be reported by NIOSH through health hazard evaluations which will be conducted independently by NIOSH personnel in the field.

Table 1 - Summary of Injuries and Illnesses, April 23 – June 6, 2010

April 23 – Jun 6, 2010	Injuries	Illnesses
Total	186	80
Offshore location	64	30
Onshore location	122	50
Worker type	BP employee: 1 Contractor: 164 Federal/State/Local: 7 Volunteer: 0 (14 unspecified)	BP employee: 1 Contractor: 69 Federal/State/Local: 1 Volunteer: 1 (8 unspecified)
Most Common Type of Injury/Illness	Contusion/Abrasion	Heat Stress
Most Common Part of Body affected	Fingers/Wrist/Hand	n/a
Percentage leading to Missed days or Restricted work	7/186 (4%)	Not available*

*This information is not currently recorded in the database.

Graph 1

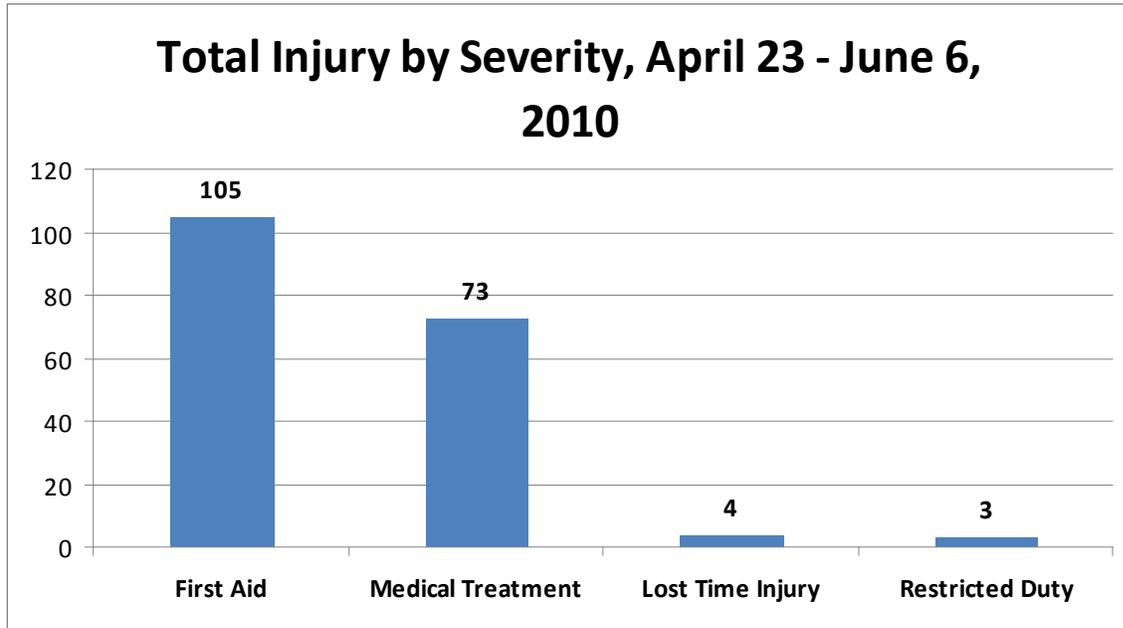


Note: 40 cases could not be classified by Nature of Injury, due to limitations in the completeness of the data. 13 injuries were not included on this graph, as they occurred with a frequency of less than 3.

Table 2 - Top five injuries by location; Onshore vs. Offshore

Onshore	Number	Offshore	Number
Contusion/Abrasion	22	Contusion/Abrasion	18
Laceration	15	Sprain/Strain/Tear	14
Bite/sting	11	Laceration	11
Electrical/Lightning	8	Bite/sting	4
Sprain/Strain/Tear and Blunt Trauma	6	Puncture	4

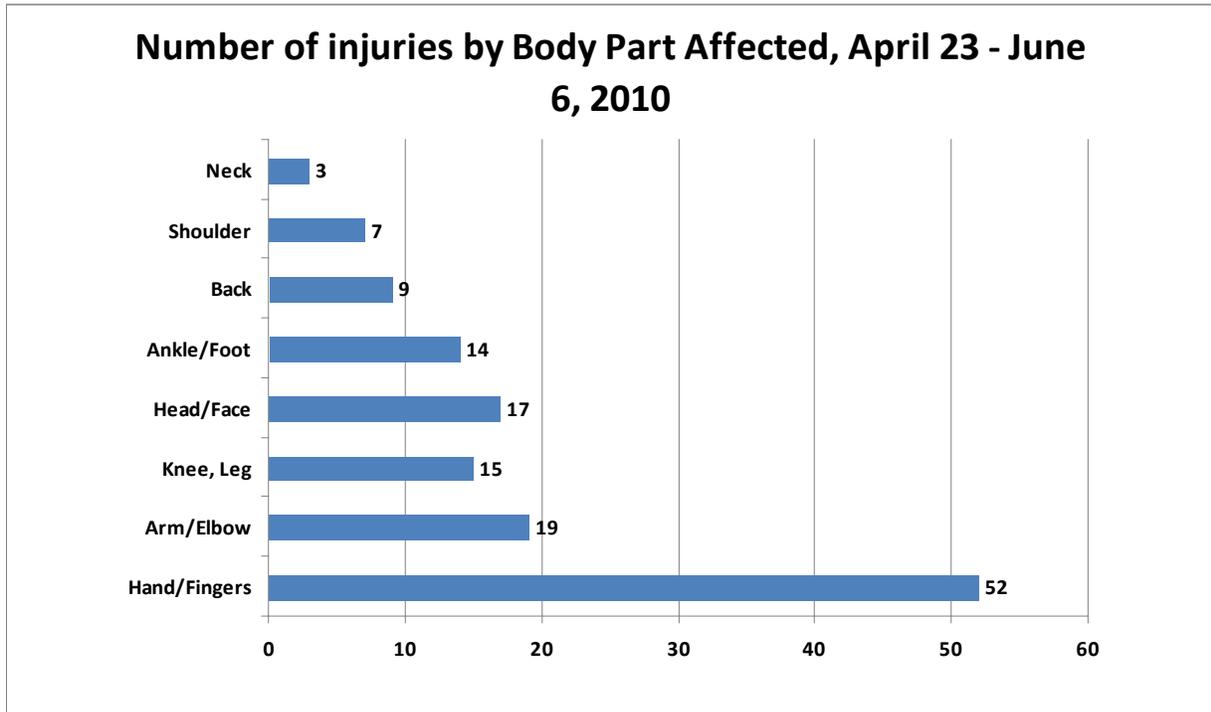
Graph 2



Note: Severity scale based on proxy of treatment received and/or if injury led to missed days of work or restricted duty. First Aid refers to basic field care. Medical Treatment refers to any case requiring treatment beyond first aid, but which did not result in restricted duty or lost time.

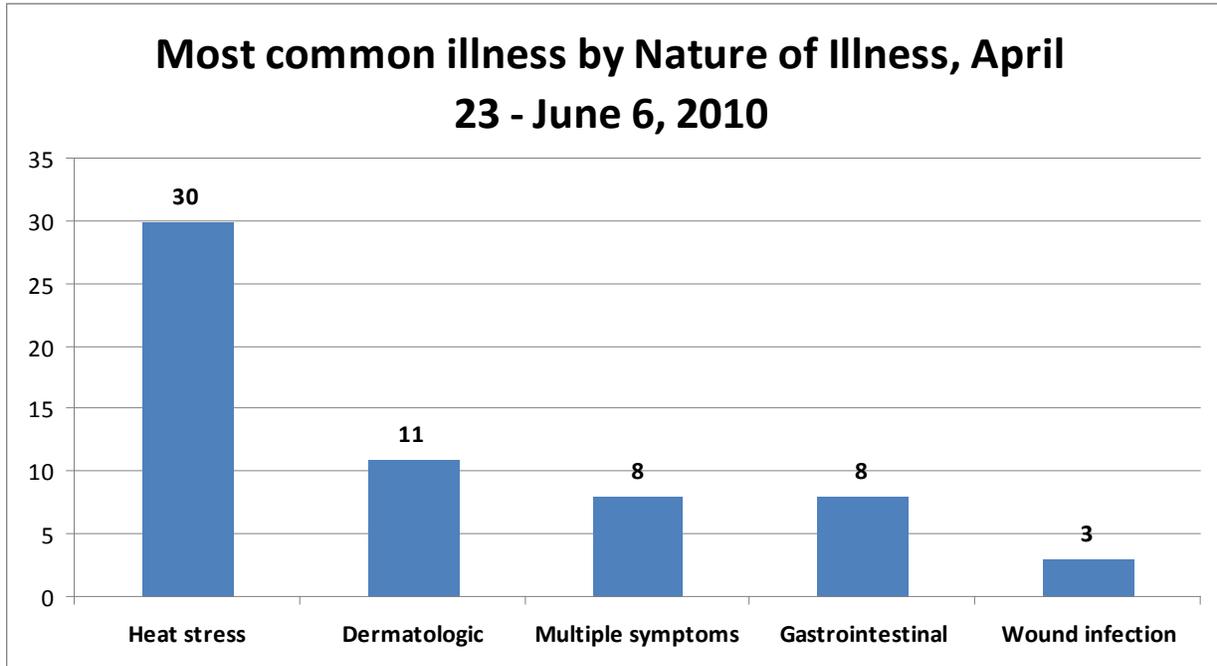
One case did not contain sufficient data to determine the nature of treatment received or whether days missed/restricted had occurred.

Graph 3



Note: 48 cases could not be classified by body part affected due to incompleteness of the data. One body part with a frequency of less than three cases was not included in this graph (n=2).

Graph 4



Note: Multiple symptoms refers to symptoms occurring in more than one organ system for a given case, but which were not attributed to heat stress in the database. For example, there were 7 cases involving complaints of nausea, vomiting, headache, and dizziness which were not attributed to heat stress. (See Discussion points)

Three illnesses could not be classified due to incompleteness of the data, and 17 illnesses were not included in this graph because they were attributed to illnesses with a frequency less than 3.

Table 3 - Top three illnesses by location; Onshore vs. Offshore

Onshore	Number	Offshore	Number
Heat Stress	23	Heat Stress	7
Dermatologic	10	Multiple Symptoms	7
Gastrointestinal	6	Unclassifiable	3

Note: “Unclassifiable” illnesses consist of those cases which did not contain sufficient information to code by a more specific nature of illness.

Observations and Recommendations

Injuries

- Large number of contusions/abrasions and lacerations are occurring to the hands/fingers of workers. NIOSH will ask BP Safety and OSHA to look more closely at the associated job tasks to see where the use of gloves and safety re-education might prevent future injuries.
- The most common location for sprain/strain/tear injury was to the back and shoulders (12/20), with 10 of these 12 occurring on vessels offshore. NIOSH will look for patterns linked with back and shoulder injuries among workers operating on offshore vessels.
- 11 of 15 bite/sting injuries occurred onshore. 8/15 was attributed to an insect or spider, and one case each from the following animals: cat, jellyfish, and snake. NIOSH will attempt to learn more about the circumstances or locations which led to the insect/spider bites in particular.
- Blunt trauma injuries occurred predominantly as a result of handling boom and boom winches. NIOSH will ask BP Safety and OSHA to look more closely at this specific activity to determine if safety re-education might prevent future injuries.

Illnesses

- **Heat Stress:** 23/30 Heat stress injuries occurred “Onshore.” NIOSH will ask BP Safety and OSHA to look more closely at the job tasks of those affected, as well as any other common factors which may have led to these illnesses.
- **Dermatologic:** 10/11 dermatologic cases occurred onshore. 5/11 dermatologic cases were allergic in nature, with four attributed to allergic reaction to sunscreen “wipes,” and one to allergy to nitrile gloves.
- A group illness event involving seven fisherman occurred on on May 26th and is currently under investigation by the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program. All illnesses from this event were categorized under the “multiple symptoms” category, and involved nausea, vomiting, headache, and dizziness.