

## NIOSH Interim Respiratory Protection Recommendations for Deepwater Horizon Response Workers

Location	Hazard identification	Respirator needed?	Recommended type
<b>Source:</b>  <b>Near damaged well</b>	VOCs*, crude oil, dispersant	When:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticipate exposure to fresh crude oil, benzene, dispersant</li> <li>• Air sampling data indicate need for use</li> <li>• Symptoms or health effects reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full facepiece elastomeric with Combo OV/P100</li> </ul>
<b>Off shore:</b> <b>Burning oil</b>	VOCs, smoke, soot, partially oxidized fuel, metals (V, Cr, Ni); CO, CO <sub>2</sub> , and NO <sub>x</sub> ; Fire hazards	When:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind shifts put workers in plume</li> <li>• Air sampling data indicate need for use</li> <li>• Symptoms or health effects reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In conjunction with an escape plan: Flame-resistant clothing; NIOSH-approved escape respirator; need OV and particle (P100 or HE) protections</li> <li>• For continuing operations: Flame resistant clothing; Hooded PAPR or Full facepiece or half facepiece with goggles. Need OV and particle (P100 or HE) protections</li> </ul>
<b>Off shore:</b> <b>Not burning oil</b>	VOC	When:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air sampling data indicate need for use</li> <li>• Symptoms or health effects reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half facepiece elastomeric with OV cartridge</li> </ul>

(Continued)

## NIOSH Respiratory Protection Recommendations for Deepwater Horizon Response Workers (Continued)

Location	Hazard identification	Respirator needed?	Recommended type
<b>Shoreline and marsh</b>	Oil mist, tar and surface contamination	When: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual observation of oil mist</li> <li>• Pressure washing in progress</li> <li>• Symptoms or health effects reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P100 if oil mist present (e.g. from pressure washing)</li> <li>• Eye and skin protection needed</li> <li>• Remove symptomatic patients for medical evaluation</li> </ul>
<b>Decontamination of PPE, vessels, and equipment (e.g., booms)</b>	Oil mist, tar and surface contamination	When: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual observation of oil mist</li> <li>• Pressure washing in progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use P100 if oil mist present (e.g. from pressure washing)</li> <li>• Eye and skin protection needed</li> </ul>
<b>Decontamination of Wildlife</b>	Spray from struggling birds; ammonia, injury hazards from pecking and talon scratches; VOCs	When: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual observation of oil mist</li> <li>• If wildlife heavily coated with fresh crude oil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective gown, gloves, and face shields</li> <li>• If potential crude oil exposure, use half facepiece with OV cartridge</li> </ul>

SOURCE: NIOSH/OSHA Interim Guidance for Protecting Deepwater Horizon Workers and Volunteers, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/oilspillresponse/protecting/>.

\*Abbreviations: CO = carbon monoxide; CO<sub>2</sub> = carbon dioxide; Cr = chromium; HE = high efficiency; Ni = nickel; NO<sub>x</sub> = oxides of nitrogen (e.g. nitric oxide or nitrogen dioxide); OV = organic vapor; P100 = NIOSH-approved particulate filtering respirator that is strongly resistant to oil and filters at least 99.97% of airborne particles; PAPR=Powered Air-Purifying Respirator; PPE = personal protective equipment; V = vanadium; VOCs = volatile organic compounds.

### For More Information

For more NIOSH information and recommendations for Deepwater Horizon response workers, see <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/oilspillresponse/>

To receive NIOSH documents or more information about occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH at

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 TTY: 1-888-232-6348 ■ E-mail: [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)  
 or visit the NIOSH Web site at [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh).