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Study: Air Near Oil Spill Contains 100 Times the Safe Amount of Toxins

BY [Ariel Schwartz](#) Tue May 11, 2010



Louisiana residents have enough problems to deal with from the recent Deepwater Horizon oil spill without worrying about breathing. But they might have to. The Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) recently evaluated the EPA's air content and quality testing results in Venice Beach, Louisiana and found that the level of some airborne toxins is greater than 100 times the quantity considered safe to humans.

LEAN's claims are beyond disturbing. The group reports that the hydrogen sulfide content at Venice Beach, Louisiana is up to 1,192 parts per billion. People start experiencing physical symptoms at 5 to 10 parts per billion. These symptoms include sore eyes, mucous membrane irritation, neurological damage (including dementia, disorientation, and memory failure), adverse respiratory effects, tremor, headache, dizziness, and ocular damage. LEAN also claims that levels of volatile organic compounds are also higher than normal:

Louisiana's ambient air standard for the VOC benzene, for example, is 3.76 ppb, while its standard for methylene chloride is 61.25 ppb. Long-term exposure to airborne benzene has been linked to cancer. Air testing results show VOC concentrations far above these state standards. On May 6, for example, the EPA measured VOCs at levels of 483 ppb. The highest levels detected to date were on April 30, at 3,084 ppb, following by May 2, at 3,416 ppb.

We don't have any third-party verification that this evaluation is correct, but the information comes from the Gulf Oil Disaster Recovery Group, which correctly informed us that BP's underwater dome failed in advance of the oil company's announcement. If the air quality news is true, BP better be prepared to shell out many millions more in damages.

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Video Suggests BP Literally Covering Up Oil Damage on Louisiana Beaches

BY [Ariel Schwartz](#) Thu Jul 1, 2010



17diggsdigg There's no question that BP has lied extensively over the past few months about the growing Gulf oil disaster. The company has [bullied journalists](#), [fudged numbers](#), and even [deployed](#) fake journalists to the Gulf to write about how everything is fine. Now BP may be literally trying to cover up oiled beaches by dumping sand on top of them.

The video below, filmed by Judson Parker of [Save Our Shores Florida](#), purportedly shows oil sandwiched between two layers of different types of sand. According to Parker, local deputies confirmed that BP dumped sand onto the Grand Isle, Louisiana beach and attempted to smooth it over. But Wayne Keller, the Executive Director of the Grand Isle Port Commission, doesn't know anything about it. "I'm not aware of that being done anywhere on Grand Isle," he tells [FastCompany.com](#). I know we're trucking in sand to build berms to keep oil out of the estuary, but that's it."

A quick tip to BP: we see what you're doing. And if this just another attempt to make the oil disaster seem trivial, it won't work.



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Ariel Schwartz can be reached on [Twitter](#) or by [email](#).

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