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Office of Public Affairs

**Hurricane Alex Activity Statistics Update – July 3, 2010***The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement  
Monitors Activities Through its Continuity of Operations Plan*

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** — Offshore oil and gas operators in the Gulf of Mexico are re-boarding platforms and rigs, and restoring production following Hurricane Alex. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement's (BOEMRE) Continuity of Operations Plan team is monitoring the operators' activities. This team will be activated until operations return to normal. Based on data from offshore operator reports submitted as of 11:30 a.m. CDT today, personnel have been evacuated from a total of 15 production platforms, equivalent to 2.37 % of the 634 manned platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Production platforms are the structures located offshore from which oil and natural gas are produced. These structures remain in the same location throughout a project's duration unlike drilling rigs which typically move from location to location.

Personnel from two rigs have also been evacuated; this is equivalent to 3.92 % of the 51 rigs currently operating in the Gulf. Rigs can include several types of self-contained offshore drilling facilities including jackups, submersibles and semisubmersibles.

Neither the drilling rigs nor the containment vessels involved in the BP oil spill response have been required to evacuate or halt operations. (For the latest information regarding the impacts of severe weather on the BP oil spill response, visit: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com>.)

As part of the evacuation process, personnel activate the shut-in procedure, which can also be accomplished from a remote location. This involves closing the safety valves located below the surface of the ocean to prevent the release of oil or gas. During the recent hurricane seasons, the shut-in valves functioned 100 percent of the time, efficiently closing in production from wells on the Outer Continental Shelf and protecting the marine and coastal environments. Shutting-in oil and gas production is a standard procedure conducted by industry for safety and environmental reasons.

From the operators' reports, it is estimated that approximately 1.13 % of the oil production in the Gulf has been shut-in. It is also estimated that approximately 2.08 % of the natural gas production in the Gulf has been shut-in. Estimated energy production from the Gulf of Mexico as of March 2010 is 1.6 million barrels of oil per day and 6.4 billion cubic feet of gas per day.

The production percentages are calculated using information submitted by offshore operators in daily reports. Shut-in production information included in these reports is based on what the operator expected to produce that day. The shut-in production figures therefore are estimates, which the BOEMRE compares to historical production reports to ensure the estimates follow a logical pattern.

After the hurricane has passed, facilities will be inspected. Once all standard checks have been completed, production from undamaged facilities will be brought back on line immediately. Facilities sustaining damage may take longer to bring back on line. This is the final update of evacuation and shut-in statistics that the BOEMRE will issue for Hurricane Alex.

	Total	Percentage of GOM
<b>Platforms Evacuated</b>	15	2.37 %
<b>Rigs Evacuated</b>	2	3.92 %
	Total shut-in	Percentage of GOM Production
<b>Oil, BOPD Shut-in</b>	18,125	1.13 %
<b>Gas, MMCF/D Shut-in</b>	133	2.08 %

This survey information is reflective of 21 companies' reports as of 11:30 a.m. CDT.

Contact: [BOEMRE Public Affairs](#)