



# State of Alabama

## Unified Command

### Joint Information Center

#### Mobile, Alabama

**Press Advisory #6**  
**May 9, 2010**  
**2:00 p.m.**

#### Community Response “Overwhelmingly Generous”

MOBILE -The Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI) will serve as the State Volunteer Coordinator, according to a BP established plan that has been approved through Unified Command.

“The response from the community has been overwhelmingly generous,” Sydney Hoffman, Director of the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and State Volunteer Coordinator said Sunday. “Thousands of volunteers have registered through local organizations, the BP hotline, and 2-1-1.”

During the past week, Alabama’s coastal beaches have been cleaned by volunteers. The beach and waterway clean-up days, organized by local volunteer groups, have resulted in approximately two tons of debris being removed from the shoreline.

However, only professional, paid workers will be responsible for the clean-up of oil-impacted areas. These paid workers possess specific training related to the clean-up of oil-impacted areas and the restoration of oil-impacted wildlife. Although volunteers will not be used in the clean-up of oil-impacted areas, volunteers can be given other basic assignments to aide in the response effort.

While the Alabama Department of Environmental Management is serving as the lead in coordinating state agency responses, numerous agencies and organizations are serving as partners in coordinating volunteer response efforts including the United Ways of Alabama, Hands on Affiliates, Alabama Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), AmeriCorps, local Citizen Corps Councils, Alabama Department of Public Safety, Baldwin and Mobile County Emergency Management Agencies and Baldwin and Mobile VOADs.

Volunteers can continue to call 2-1-1 or 1-888-421-1266 to register.

###

*For more information, contact Lauren Matson at 334-850-8345.*