

On the Shoreline

Mississippi, Alabama, Florida

Because the MC252 source is 50 miles from the nearest shoreline, any oil reaching the shore will be weathered mousse or tar balls.



Mousse

Mousse is brown, rust, or orange in color with a pudding-like, sticky consistency. It has little odor and can be confused with algae. Chemical analysis will be required to distinguish MC252 mousse from algae.



Tar Balls

MC252 oil will weather to form small, hard, floating black pellets or chunks of oil. Tar balls also occur naturally and wash up regularly on Gulf Coast shorelines. Chemical analysis will be required to distinguish MC252 tar balls from other tar balls.

Placing oil containment boom

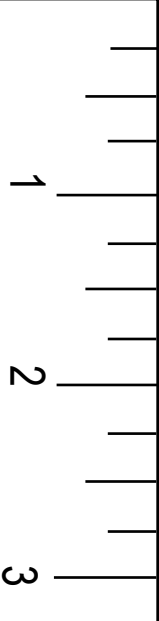


Shoreline Cleanup & Assessment Team



What to do...

- Do take a photo.
- Do use this ruler to show size.
- Do note color, appearance, location, date and time.
- Do report it to 1-866-448-5816.
- Do avoid contact.
- If skin contact occurs, flush with water or remove with baby oil.



Questions? Concerns? 1-866-448-5816

For more information on oil characteristics:

www.noaa.com

www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com

On the Water

MC252 is an oil type known as Light Sweet Louisiana crude, which does not contain hydrogen sulphide. For the MC252 oil, the components of most concern to public health, like benzene, evaporate quickly once the oil reaches the surface.

Slick



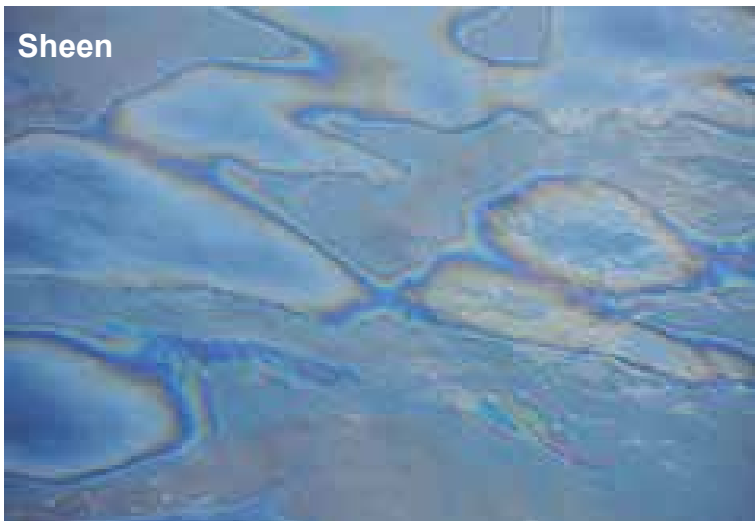
The slick is close to the source of the release. It is dull to dark brown in color and in continuous patches.

Mousse



Emulsified oil or oil and water mixture. It is brown, rust, or orange in color with a pudding-like consistency. It can be confused with algae.

Sheen



A sheen is a very thin layer of fresh oil. It may be transparent, rainbow, grey or silvery in color.

The oil weathers continuously from the moment it reaches the surface, changing characteristics and color. Most of the area of the MC252 spill is an extremely thin layer called sheen.

What's being done

- Oil is contained using booms and removed from the water using skimmers.
- Oil is contained and burned on the surface of the ocean, weather permitting.
- Dispersant chemicals are used to break oil slicks into fine droplets that then disperse into the water column.

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