



**Governor's Office of
Homeland Security &
Emergency Preparedness**

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2012

**PHOTO RELEASE: Oil mats and tar balls present
on Elmer's Island following Hurricane Isaac**

BATON ROUGE, La. – Oil mats and tar balls have been documented by state officials along Elmer's Island in Jefferson Parish, La., following Hurricane Isaac.

Some oil mats photographed yesterday by state officials were up to the length of three parked cars.

Numerous oil mats were counted along the beach, as well as tar balls. Some tar balls were found on the back side of the island brought inland by storm waters from Hurricane Isaac.

Elmer's Island remains closed to the public. The initial closure was issued on Sept. 27 by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. A portion of state waters near Elmer's Island also remain closed to commercial fishing following the storm. The official closure can be found here:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/35912>.

Members of the public should not handle any oil or oily material, including tar balls, tar mats, or other oily debris. Reports of any oil, oily material, or oiled debris should be made to both of the following numbers: (1) the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 and (2) the 24-hour Louisiana Emergency Hazardous Materials Hotline at (877) 925-6595.

- Click here to view photos of the oil mats and tar balls along Elmer's Island:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/76339745@N07/sets/72157631456238366/>
- Video footage of oil on Elmer's Island can be viewed here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrEGpqyl7M&feature=youtu.be>.

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