

An aerial photograph showing a large, dark blue ocean with a massive, swirling, reddish-brown oil spill. The spill is concentrated in the center and right side of the frame, with some white clouds visible on the left and right edges.

# **NIOSH Activities in the Deepwater Horizon Response**

**Worker Safety and Health  
Technical Conference  
October 20, 2010**

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National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health**

# Occupational Hazards in the Gulf





# CDC Assets in the DWH Response

C/I/O	Personnel	% of Response
NCEH/ATSDR (Lead)	80	16.9%
<b>NIOSH</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>52.7%</b>
OPHPR	90	19.1%
OSELS	24	5.1%
OD	18	3.8%
OID	4	0.9%
OSTLTS/SATA	6	1.3%
Other (EPA LNO)	1	0.2%
Total	472	

# NIOSH Activities

- Rostering
- Health Hazard Evaluations (HHEs)
- Technical Guidance and Communication
- Health Surveillance
- Toxicity Testing



**Worker repairing boom  
(HHE participant)**

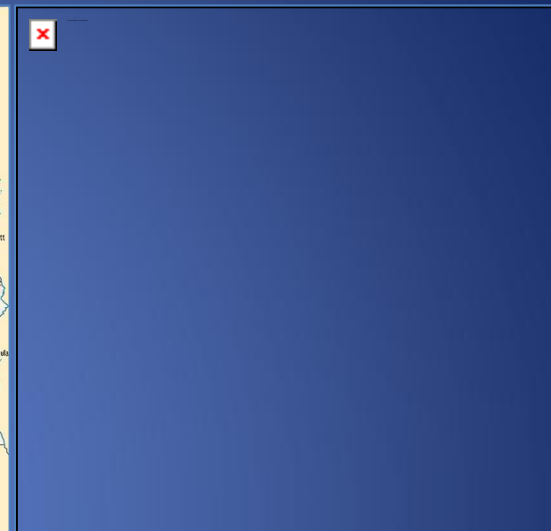
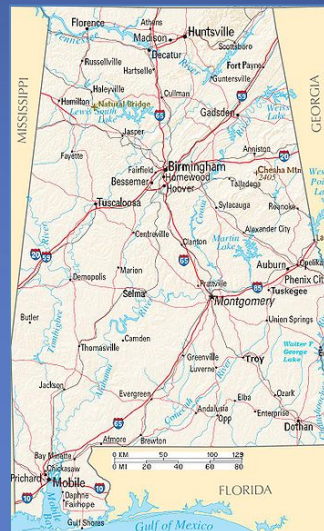
# Rostering

- Rostered over 52,000 response workers
- Staging areas and training sites
- Paper-based and web-based
- BP employees, contractors, federal and state employees, volunteers



**Rostering Workers  
in LA**

# Deepwater Horizon Response Worker Rostering



## Paper & Electronic Records As of 10-12-10

Total Collected: **55,533**

## Targeted Workers

BP Staff

BP Contractors

Volunteers

Federal

State & Local

## Percentage

Male

81%

Female

19%

Asian

3%

Hispanic

8%

Black

36%

All Others

53%

# Health Hazard Evaluations: Six Work Categories

## On Shore Evaluations:

- Beach clean-Up
- Wildlife rehabilitation
- Equipment decontamination and waste stream management

## Off Shore Evaluations:

- Source Control
- In-situ burns
- Booming, skimming, dispersant operations



HHE staff at  
source control



# Beach Cleanup





# Decontamination of Vessels





# Near-Shore / Off-Shore Environment





# Dispersant Application





# In-Situ Burns





# Evaluated Workers at the Source



21 1:28 PM

21 4:33 PM



# NIOSH-OSHA Interim Guidance

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## Workplace Safety & Health Topics



### Workplace Safety and Health Topics

Deepwater Horizon Response

► **Interim Guidance for Protecting Deepwater Horizon Response Workers and Volunteers**

Medical Pre-Placement Evaluation

Chemical Exposure Assessment

Tips for Deepwater Horizon Response Workers

Respiratory Protection Recommendations

Summary of Potential Hazards

Key Safety and Health Topics

[NIOSH](#) > [Workplace Safety and Health Topics](#) > [Deepwater Horizon Response](#)

## DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE



### Interim Guidance for Protecting Deepwater Horizon Response Workers and Volunteers

07/26/2010

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

Recommendations contained in the Interim Guidance will be updated as more information about exposures is collected and assessed in relationship to the incidence and prevalence of symptoms, illnesses and injuries.

The recommendations provided in this Interim Guidance focus on issues specific to the Deepwater Horizon Response and do not address issues common to all disaster response work activities. For more information on general disaster response, consult the NIOSH Emergency Response Topic Page at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emergency.html>.

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# NIOSH Interim Guidance: Medical Pre-Placement

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## Workplace Safety & Health Topics



### Workplace Safety and Health Topics

Deepwater Horizon Response

Interim Guidance for Protecting Deepwater Horizon Response Workers and Volunteers

► Medical Pre-Placement Evaluation

Medical Pre-Placement Evaluation Indicators for Health Professionals

Chemical Exposure Assessment

Tips for Deepwater Horizon Response Workers

Respiratory Protection Recommendations

Summary of Potential

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### NIOSH Interim Information

07/21/2010

## DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE

### Medical Pre-Placement Evaluation For Workers Engaged in the Deepwater Horizon Response

The objective of these recommendations is to provide guidance for health professionals who provide primary care to workers or volunteers who may be involved with the Deepwater Horizon response. The recommendations describe a plan for pre-placement evaluation to gather medical information on workers prior to beginning oil spill response work. The pre-placement evaluation is not a formal fitness for duty examination, but is designed to 1) provide health professionals with guidance on the important elements of such a pre-placement evaluation; 2) help health professionals identify individuals with health concerns that need to be addressed, identify individuals with specific susceptibilities whose activities may need to be restricted or modified, and identify medication, immunization or training needs; and 3) provide valuable information to the worker on his/her health status and potential demands of the work they will encounter. Additionally, this evaluation will provide some documentation of the worker's health status, and may provide an opportunity for the worker to be directed to further medical evaluation.

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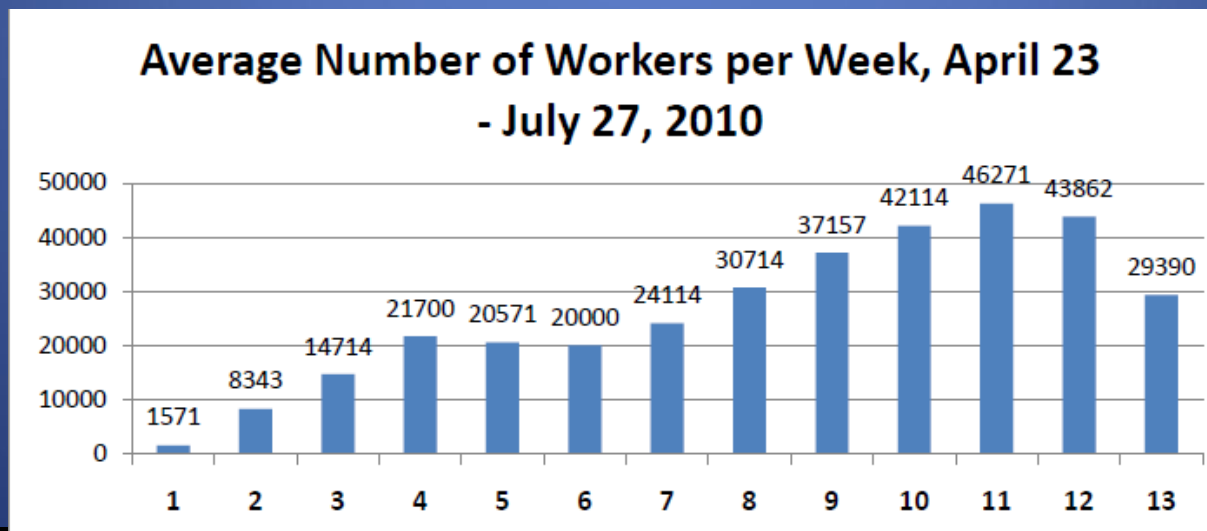
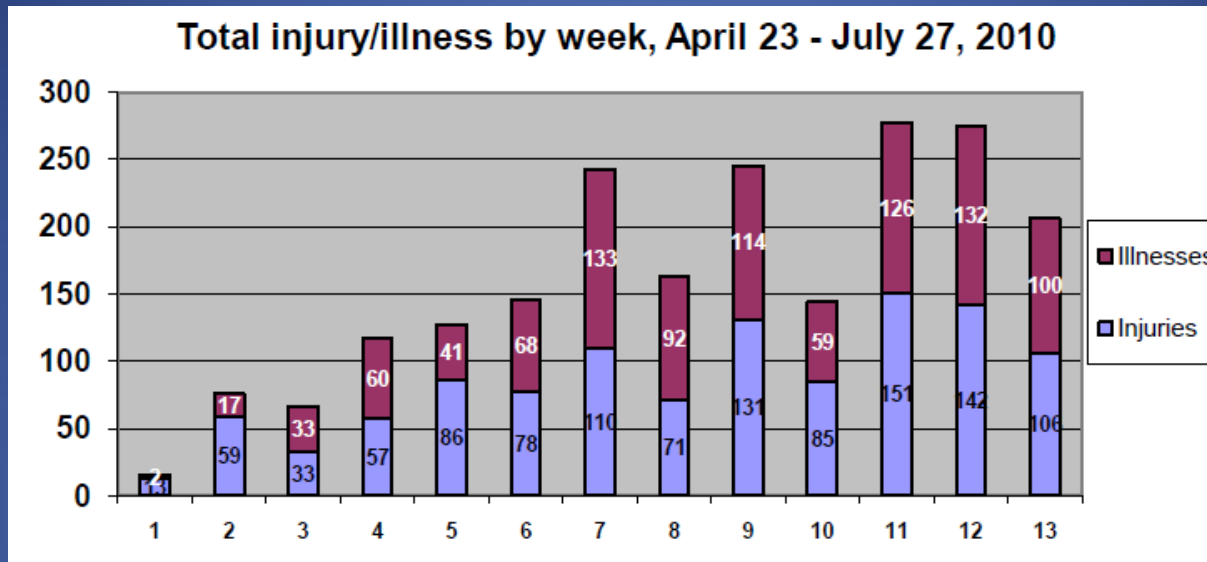
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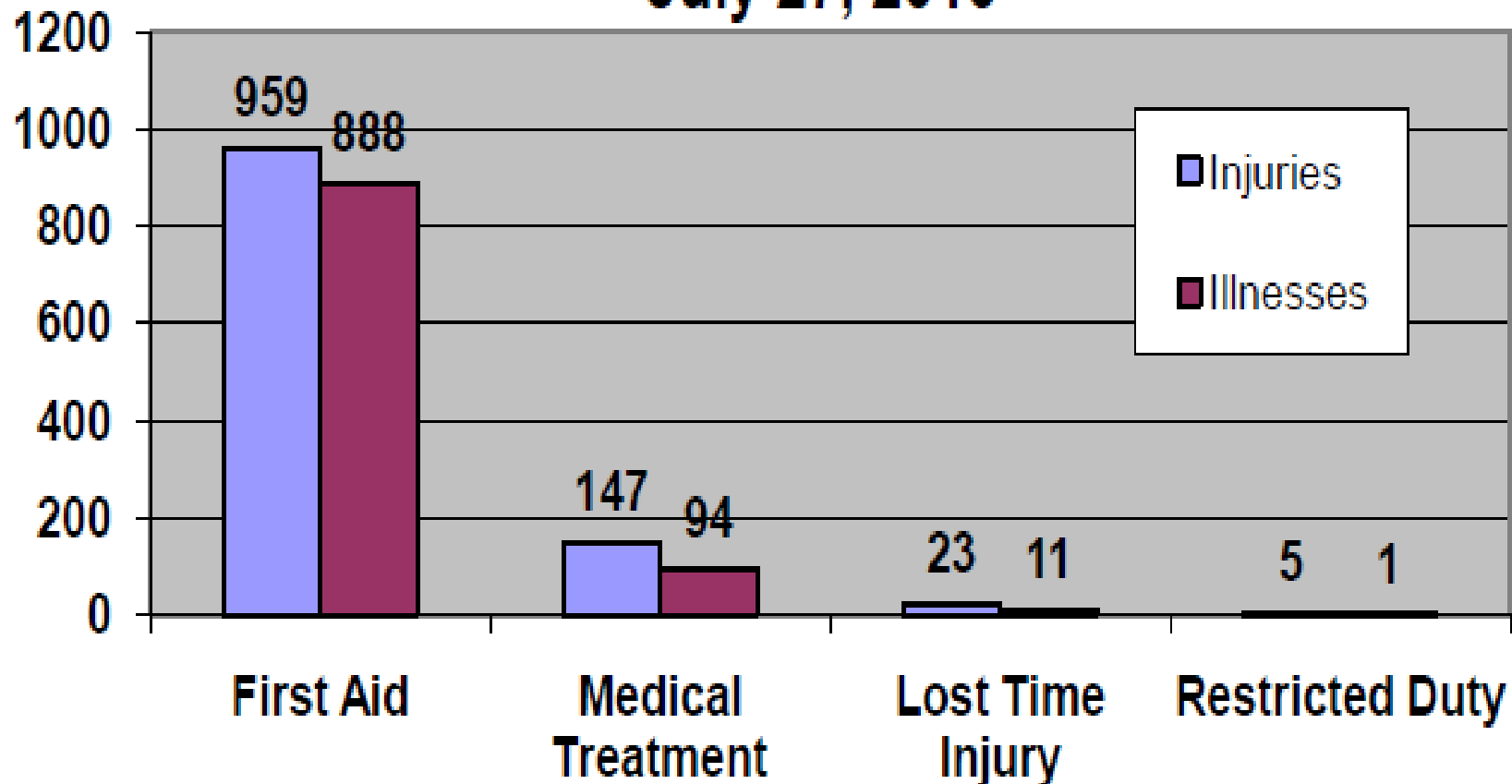
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

# NIOSH Analysis of BP Injury and Illness Report (April 23 – July 27)



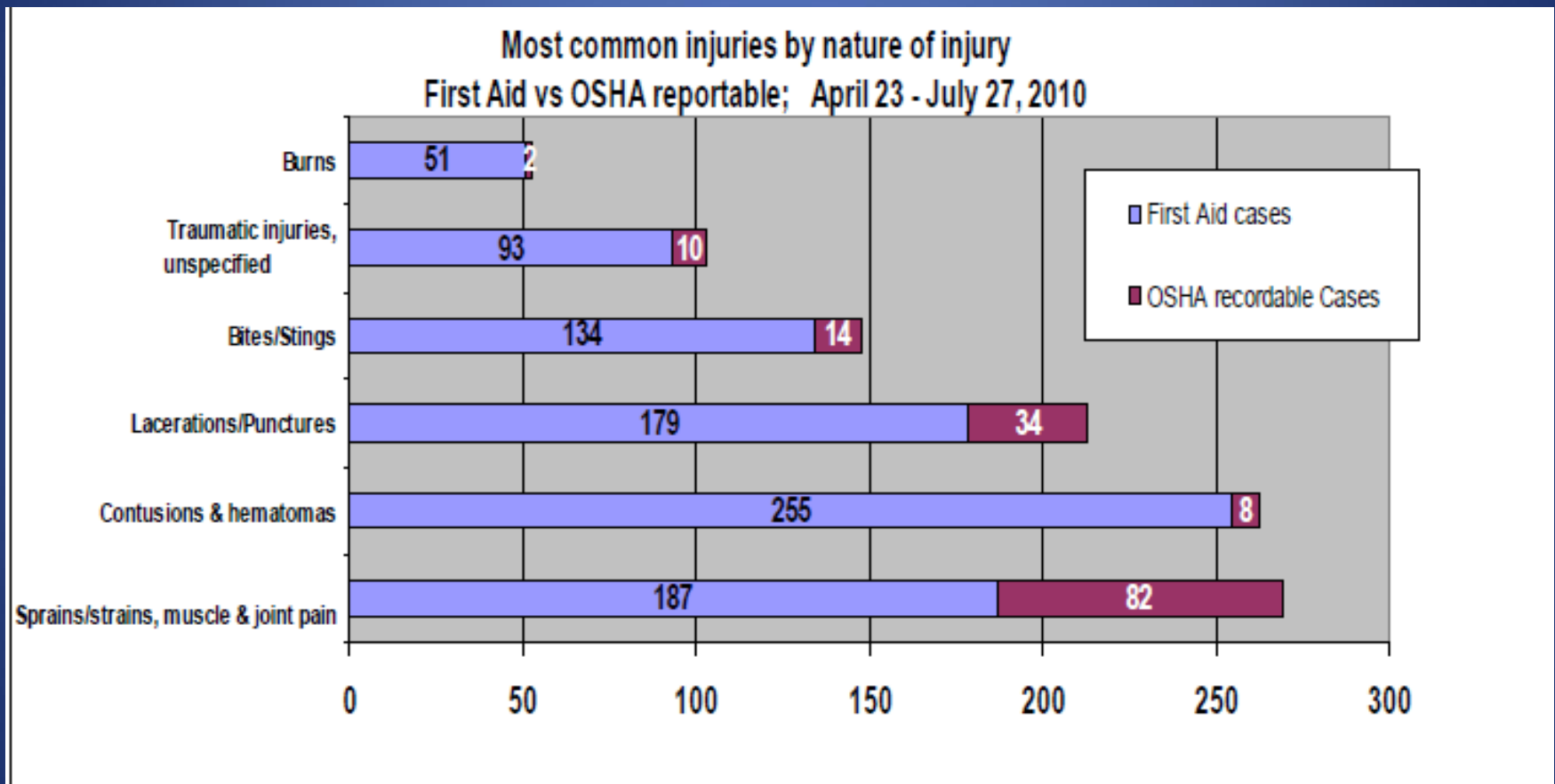
# NIOSH Analysis of BP Injury and Illness Report (April 23 – July 27)

## Total injury and illness by severity, April 23 - July 27, 2010



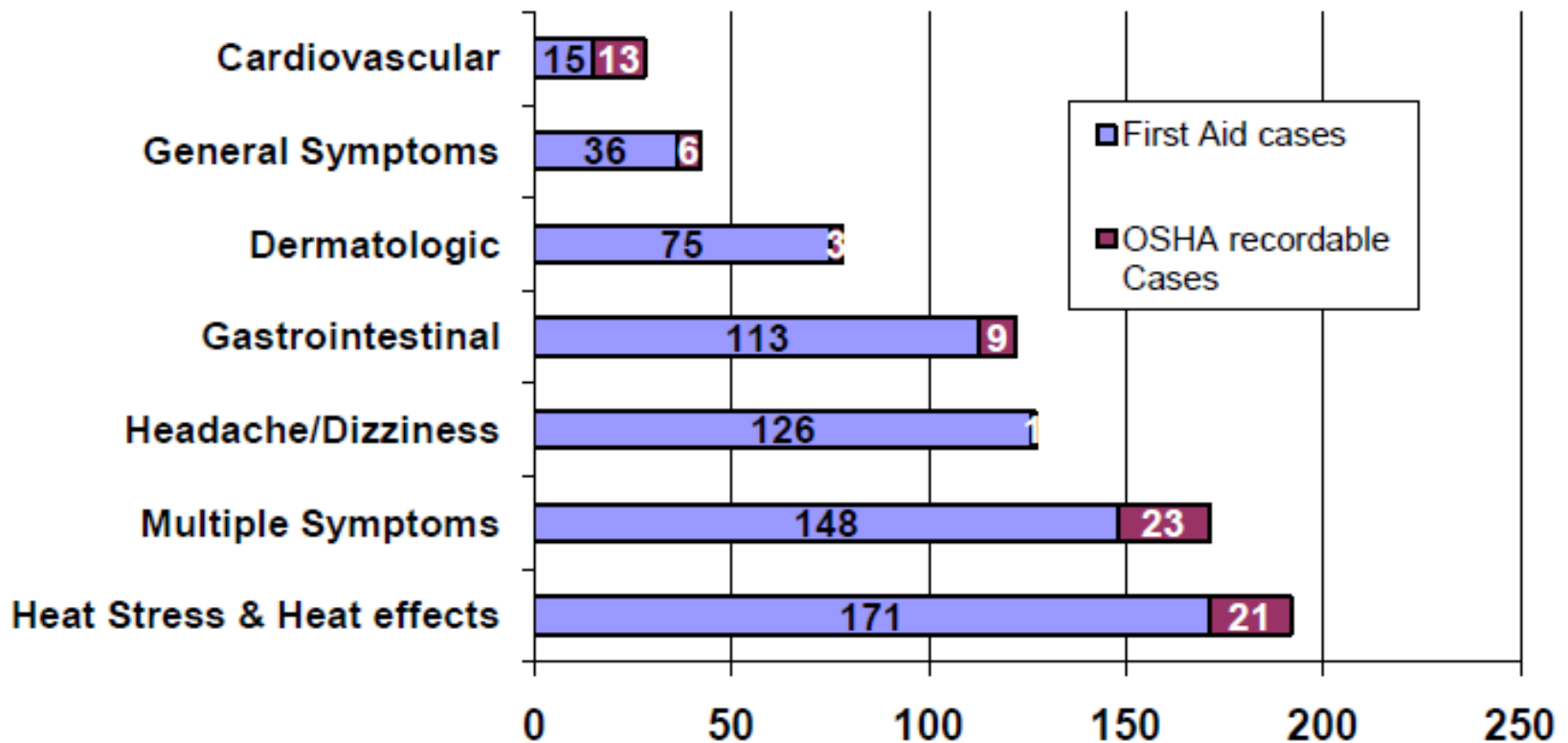


# NIOSH Analysis of BP Injury and Illness Report (April 23 – July 27)



# NIOSH Analysis of BP Injury and Illness Report (April 23 – July 27)

Most common illnesses by nature of illness; First Aid vs OSHA recordable, April 23 - July 27, 2010



# Toxicity Testing

- **Acute animal testing ongoing with:**
  - Dispersant (Nalco Corexit 9500A)
  - Crude Oil from the source (sample from well head obtained May 23<sup>rd</sup>)
  - Dispersant/crude oil mixture
- **Inhalation studies**
  - Measuring pulmonary, cardiovascular, and CNS outcomes
- **Dermal studies**
  - Assessing hypersensitivity and immune-mediated responses





**Questions?**