

6/27/10

Local Tech professor monitors tropical storm as it nears oil spill

Posted: Jun 27, 2010 9:18 PM CDT

Updated: Jun 27, 2010 11:19 PM CDT

By Tiffany Pelt - [email](#)

LUBBOCK, TX (KCBD) – As hurricane season begins, local environmentalists are keeping a close watch on developing storms that near the oil spill, threatening to cause even more damage to the Gulf Coast.

Texas Tech University Environmental Director Ron Kendall said his worst nightmare is a hurricane hitting the coast, and that oil could go as far inland as New Orleans if hit. "The only thing we can do at this point is monitor the coast line," said Kendall. "It appears at this time that this particular disturbance, Alex, will pass to the west of the main oil area".

Even if the storm doesn't hit the spill directly, Kendall said any changes in wave action where the oil is, will bring even more devastation to the coast. "The volume is getting so great now that it's a deep concern because the greater the dispersion the more potential contamination that could occur in our seafood and food chain of the gulf," said Kendall.

Not knowing where all the oil has spread coupled with the unpredictable actions of a hurricane, even the Texas Coast could be in danger. "The southern Texas Coast is an immense beautiful area that's so important to the productivity to the gulf coast ecosystem. That area is particularly venerable to oil impact," said Kendall.

Although Alex may miss the coast, Kendall said we're not out of the water yet. "Hurricane season just started. We've got a long way to go so we may get lucky this time but there's a lot of hurricane season left," he said.

Copyright 2010 KCBD. All rights reserved.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2010 WorldNow and KCBD, a [Raycom Media Station](#). All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).