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TTU product may help fight oil spill

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Initial field tests of a product developed by a Texas Tech researcher show it's successful at picking up the oily paste washing ashore on the Gulf Coast.



Photos from a preliminary test of a nonwoven cotton-wrapped carbon wipe called Fibertect show the result on a blob of oil on the beach at Grand Isle, Louisiana.

Tech associate professor Seshadri Ramkumar says it not only absorbed and held the crude, it also absorbed fumes which some oil spill cleanup workers report are making them sick.

A few weeks ago Ramkumar demonstrated Fibertect's effectiveness for FOX 34 in an experiment using motor oil.

He says the wipe can absorb up to 15 grams of crude per one gram of the material.

The EPS recently approved its use as an absorbent.

Fibertect is distributed commercially through First Line Technology.



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