

## Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers/taxpayers

*Customize and provide the following article on your website and in other communication vehicles.*

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### **Gulf Coast Assistance Day—Saturday, July 17, 2010—to Help Taxpayers in the Gulf Coast area dealing with tax issues**

#### ***Tell Family and Friends***

To help people in the Gulf Coast area dealing with tax issues, the IRS has announced a special day on July 17 in seven cities in four different states. Taxpayers and tax preparers will be able to work directly with IRS employees to resolve tax issues.

According to the current law, BP payments for lost income are taxable, in the same way that the wages or business income these payments are replacing would have been. The law treats compensation for lost wages or income differently for tax purposes than compensation for physical injuries or property loss, which generally are nontaxable.

“This is a very difficult time for many people affected by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. As residents of the region cope with the evolving situation, I want to assure them that the IRS will be doing everything it can to provide tax help to those who need it,” IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman said. “We encourage anyone who has an issue with the IRS to contact us and explain their hardship, and we will work with them to find a solution. We’ll do everything we can under current law to help taxpayers.”

The Gulf Coast Assistance Day will be held in the following cities:

- **Alabama** – Mobile
- **Florida** – Panama City and Pensacola
- **Louisiana** – New Orleans, Houma and Baton Rouge
- **Mississippi** – Gulfport

Every person can have unique financial circumstances, so the IRS encourages taxpayers to review their tax situation or talk with their tax preparers about the implications of payments or compensation from the oil spill.

If you live in the Gulf Coast area or know someone affected by this, please help spread the word about Gulf Coast Assistance Day. Encourage people you know—family, friends and neighbors—to visit an IRS office if they need free help with federal tax issues.

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***NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links to more IRS.gov information on the Gulf oil spill.***

- [Gulf Oil Spill Information Center](#)
- [Gulf Oil Spill: Questions and Answers](#)
- [Flyer to promote July 17 Gulf Coast Assistance Day \(English\)](#)
- [Flyer to promote July 17 Gulf Coast assistance Day \(Spanish\)](#)