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SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE WARNS ABOUT OIL SPILL JOB SCAMS

Residents are reminded there is no charge to apply or train for jobs

(MIAMI, July 8, 2010) — South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) warns Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties' residents to be wary of companies offering beach clean-up jobs for a fee.

Some private companies are providing job opportunities in the recovery effort. However, job seekers should be aware that others may be exploiting the situation for personal gain. Recent reports indicate some local residents have paid fees to submit applications or undergo training for oil spill-related jobs, only to later discover the advertised jobs were not available or the training not as described. SFWIB is working closely with BP contractors and subcontractors to ensure that unemployed local residents are considered first for local response and recovery jobs.

"We are asking residents to be cautious. Certified BP contractors do not charge for job training and in many cases pay the trainees to participate in these trainings," said Rick Beasley, Executive Director of South Florida Workforce.

SFWIB is encouraging residents to be careful of providing pertinent information such as social security numbers to unknown entities. Be cautious about traveling to job sites in different counties unless a position has been offered and accepted. Finally, consumers who believe they may have been victimized by potentially deceptive or unfair practices related to oil spill jobs should contact:

- The Attorney General's Fraud Hotline at 1-866-966-7226, or
- The Florida Department of Agriculture's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-435-7352, or
- The Chief Financial Officer's Consumer Helpline at 1-877-693-5236

Consumers with questions about available oil spill response and recovery jobs can contact 1-877-362-5034 or visit us online at www.floridagulfrecoveryjobs.com

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