

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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**ADVISORY: RESEARCH BUOYS FLOATING ASHORE ON OKALOOSA
BEACHES**

A number of white research buoys with black bottoms are washing ashore onto beaches in Destin and Okaloosa Island. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has received multiple calls about the buoys, which also have an orange flag and flashing sensor. So far the OCSO has reports of one coming onto the beach in Destin near 500 Gulf Shore Drive, one near the Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island, and two near Nautilus Condominiums on Okaloosa Island.

They are reportedly connected to a research team out of Miami that is involved in post-BP oil spill studies. As many as one-hundred buoys are believed to be in the Gulf in our region and are expected to come ashore at some point.

The research team does want to try to collect the buoys. A phone number is on each one and anyone who finds one can call that number so the objects, approximately two and a half feet across, can be retrieved.

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Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal
opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"