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USCG PADET LA/LB

Contact: SondraKay Kneen

Email: sondra-kay.d.kneen@uscg.mil

Office: (310) 521-4267

Mobile: (310) 781-0619

News Release

UPDATE: COAST GUARD AND STATE OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING OIL SPILL IN LOS ANGELES HARBOR

LOS ANGELES — The Coast Guard and California Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response are investigating an oil spill that occurred on Sunday in the Los Angeles Harbor. A unified command has been established that includes the Coast Guard, California Fish and Wildlife, and the responsible party.

Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach command center received a report at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, of an unknown quantity of oil in the vicinity of the 577-foot cargo ship, Istra Ace. The ship was reported to have been leaking heavy fuel in the Cerritos channel at Berth 198. Reports of oil were also observed throughout portions of Cerritos Channel, where booming strategies have been employed.

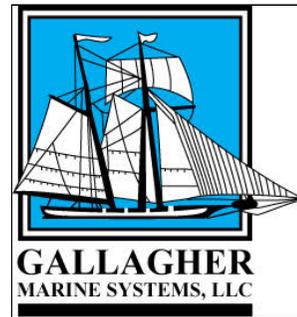
Coast Guard investigators from Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach, along with members of California Fish and Wildlife, Los Angeles Port Police and Los Angeles County Fire are assisting in the investigation and monitoring of the area. A Coast Guard helicopter overflight and shoreline clean-up assessments are scheduled at first light to help determine the extent of the oil spilled.

The Coast Guard issued a safety zone restricting recreational and commercial vessel traffic in the affected area. These restrictions will ensure that vessels do not impede clean-up operations as well as avoid any possible contamination. Due to response efforts, the operations of the Commodore Schuyler F. Heim Bridge have been temporarily suspended, restricting vessel traffic from transiting underneath the bridge. However, automobile traffic is not affected.

The responsible party has contracted with the National Response Corporation Environmental Services and other sub-contractors to assist in efforts to contain and clean the oil. Currently, 15,600 feet of boom has been deployed around the vessel as well as at critical points in the channel. Additional resources will be deployed as necessary.

At this time, there have been no reports of oiled wildlife. If you encounter oiled wildlife, please do not attempt to capture the animal, instead please call the Oiled Wildlife Care Network at the following number: 1-877-UCD-OWCN or 1-877-823-6926.

If you feel that this pollution incident has impacted you, a claims number has been provided. To make a claim, please call 1-888-850-8486.



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