

Unified Command, Joint Information Center established for Pelican Island Bridge Allision Response

GALVESTON, Texas – A Unified Command and Joint Information Center have been established in Galveston, on Wednesday to coordinate response and disseminate information for the Pelican Island Bridge Allision on Wednesday morning.

At approximately 10 a.m. Wednesday, the barge MMLP 321, owned by Martin Marine, allided with the Pelican Island Causeway due to a break in the coupling.

There were no reports of injuries or any people in the water.

Due to the allision, one of the cargo tanks was compromised causing vacuum gas oil to spill into the water, the amount is still being determined, but the source has been contained. Boom has been deployed and additional oil spill assets are responding to the incident. A Coast Guard Air Station Houston overflight as well as drones are being deployed this morning to evaluate the extent of the oil spill.

The damaged bridge which is under the jurisdiction of Galveston County Navigational District 1 (GCND1) is being assessed by GCND1 with the assistance of the Texas Department of Transportation.

The bridge is open to car traffic leaving Pelican Island and pedestrian traffic both ways. The condition of the bridge could change throughout the day as the damage is evaluated. Pedestrian traffic entering the island is only open to residents, employees, and students of Texas A&M.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. yesterday, Texas A&M students, faculty, and non-essential personnel were relocated from the island. Texas A&M students and employees are advised to follow the University's instructions for the incident.

The Pelican Island Bridge Allision Response Unified Command includes the:

U.S. Coast Guard

Texas General Land Office

Martin Marine

Additional Supporting Agencies:

Texas A&M University Galveston Campus

Texas Department of Transportation

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

NOAA

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Port of Houston Authority

E3 OMI

T & T Marine

The City of Galveston

Galveston County Office of Emergency Management

Texas City Office of Emergency Management

A website with incident response information updates can be found at the following URL: www.pelicanislandbridgeallision.com

The media is requested to email inquiries@pelicanislandbridgeallision.com or call the Joint Information Center at 409-300-3521 for response to inquiries and interviews.

The Unified Command's operational priorities are ensuring the safety of the public and first responders, protecting the environment, incident stabilization, and safely restoring transportation infrastructure and commerce.

For vessel traffic information refer to marine safety information broadcasts posted on [Pages - My Homeport Content \(uscg.mil\)](#).

For any reports of pollution please contact the Wildlife Hotline at 832-514-9663.

A claims phone line has been established at 281-350-9996.

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