

News Release

Jefferson Parish,

Issued by: Patricia Borne
Public Information Officer



Our Mission Is:

"Provide the services, leadership, and vision to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish."

Steve J. Theriot
Parish President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2010

UPDATE ON WELLHEAD IN BAYOU ST. DENNIS

The tug vessel Pere Ana C, pushing the dredge barge Captain Buford Berry, allided with the wellhead while it transited the Barataria Waterway. Bayou St. Dennis is in lower Jefferson Parish.

At daylight, a passing boat notified the Grand Isle Command Post that oil and gas were spilling from the wellhead. A Jefferson Parish Sheriff Office (JPSO) helicopter and boat were dispatched to the scene and confirmed that a 100-foot plume of gas and oil was shooting upwards from the wellhead. JPSO and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) have established a 2-mile safety perimeter around the wellhead.

The owner of the wellhead is reported to be CEDYCO Corporation out of Houston, Texas. Telephone calls to the company have gone unanswered. The USCG has federalized the response and deployed a wild-well company to shut down the leak. The wild-well response team is in route and should be on the scene this afternoon. The federal government has contracted Environmental Safety and Health for the cleanup. The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund has been enacted to provide monetary support for any cleanup operations.

The volume of oil and gas leaking from the wellhead is unknown at this time but is not considered to be a large leak and appears to be mostly natural gas with light oil mixed in. The wellhead appears to be a three-phase line with oil, water and gas mixed together being sent to a separation facility.

There are no residents in the immediate area of the leak and the air is being monitored for any dangerous levels of contamination.

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