



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. COAST GUARD

Marine Safety Unit  *Port Arthur, Texas*

Marine Safety Information Bulletin

20-23

May 4, 2023

Channel Closure – Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Pipeline Leak Response Operations UPDATE 3

Pipeline response and repair operations continue at the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at Mile Marker (MM) 260 WHL, approximately 5 miles east of Orange, TX.

The setting up of barges and dive operations equipment is complete. Several test tows were allowed to pass to determine effects and safety on the operation. Based on the passing of these tows, it has been determined that traffic will be allowed to transit past the operation 24-hours per day.

Effective at 7 AM CDT, May 4, 2023, the following traffic measures apply to passing traffic:

1. All commercial traffic is required to submit Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Port Arthur (*Port Arthur Traffic*) Sailing Plan and Final Reports (check in/out) on VHF Channel 65A **at GIWW Mile Marker 258 WHL** instead of the normal MM 260 location.
2. Tows passing the response and repair site are limited to a maximum 70-foot beam.
3. No meeting or overtaking within 1/4 mile of spill response operations at Mile Marker 260.
4. When transiting past the operation, tows shall maintain minimum safe speed and minimum wake.

Occasional stoppages may be required to reposition equipment and personnel. VTS Port Arthur will coordinate these short duration stoppages as they occur.

Additional information regarding response and repair operations and impacts to GIWW traffic will be communicated as soon as known VTS Port Arthur Advisory and updates to this MSIB. Concerned vessel traffic may contact VTS Port Arthur on VHF channels 65A or 13 or at (409) 719-5070.

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS Port Arthur website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtspportarthur/>. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact VTS Port Arthur by phone (409) 719-5070 or email vtspa-sup@uscg.mil.



**M. A. Wike
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port**