



Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 05-19

Cargo Operations in the Upper Houston Ship Channel

This MSIB is issued in response to reported benzene levels on the Houston Ship Channel as a result of the chemical fire at ITC Deer Park in the Upper Houston Ship Channel.

As of March 22, 2019, at 1803 the Coast Guard Captain of the Port has called for a cease of cargo operations in the Houston Ship Channel from the Cargill Facility East to Cemex USA, which is between Houston Ship Channel Light 139 and Houston Ship Channel Light 129. The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port is working in close coordination with EPA, TCEQ, Harris County, ITC, POHA and the contracted toxicology companies to evaluate air quality on the Houston Ship Channel at this time and will continue to update risk evaluations.

If at any time additional safety risks to operations on the Houston Ship Channel become evident, the Captain of the Port will take action to ensure safety for port operations and mariners on the waterways. Facilities and employees should continue to follow any direction provided by the County officials.

This bulletin shall remain active until rescinded or superseded by future direction.

K. D. Oditt
Captain, United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port