



## **Marine Safety Information Bulletin**

**04-12**

**April 29, 2012**

### ***REQUIREMENT TO REPORT VESSEL GROUNDINGS AND OTHER MARINE CASUALTIES***

Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4.05-1, outlines the type of marine casualties that must be reported to the Coast Guard, and requires that these reports be made immediately after addressing safety concerns that may occur as a result of a casualty. In addition to the “immediate” reporting requirements, Title 46, CFR, Part 4.05-10 requires vessel operators to notify the Coast Guard, in writing, within 5 days after a casualty has occurred.

Reportable marine casualties include all vessel groundings, except intentional groundings of barges that do not impede traffic or hazard the safety of the grounded vessel. All intentional groundings by self-propelled vessels must be reported. This includes vessels that load to a depth that allows their hulls to touch bottom or that touch bottom while underway due to vessel squat, bottom suction, or running in or out of shallow channels.

Facility managers are reminded that the responsibility to survey a facility’s docks and moorings rests with each waterfront facility. In order to ensure the safety of vessels arriving at waterfront facilities, the Coast Guard highly recommends that each waterfront facility conduct periodic depth soundings around their docks and provide this information to the Pilots, vessel agents, and arriving vessels. This practice should significantly reduce the risk of grounding and prevent vessels delays at facilities while hull surveys, investigations, inspections, and repairs take place. The surveys would also provide useful base-line survey data for post-hurricane recovery, damage, or loss for insurance claims, as well as support for an emergency declaration and access to possible Federal financial assistance. With your cooperation, we will all keep our waterways safe, secure, and at peak operating capacity.

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard’s HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS Website at [www.uscg.mil/d8/vtspportarthur](http://www.uscg.mil/d8/vtspportarthur). If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call VTS Port Arthur at (409) 719-5070.

**G. J. PAITL**  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port