

United States Coast Guard

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coast Guard Investigates towboat sinking in Ghent, KY

Ghent, KY, Dec. 17 — Personnel from Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville are investigating the December 15th dockside sinking of the TAMARA ANN, a 50 foot towing vessel operated by Eagle Towing. The vessel was moored at the North American Stainless dock in Ghent at the time of the incident. The front of the vessel reportedly became intertwined in an unused conveyor belt as waters levels in the Ohio River rose significantly, forcing the TAMARA ANN to flood and ultimately roll to one side. Approximately 400 gallons of diesel fuel was believed to have escaped from the vessel's fuel vents.

Coast Guard officials from Louisville were dispatched to the incident upon receiving the report. Emergency Management officials from Carroll County responded with oil spill clean-up equipment immediately after the sinking. An environmental clean-up contractor was also dispatched and will continue mitigation efforts until completed to the satisfaction the Coast Guard. It is estimated that only a fraction of the fuel will be recovered.

Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville will continue to monitor clean-up efforts, finalize an investigation, and determined what penalties, if any, will be assessed. The discharge of oil or hazardous materials into a navigable waterway carries a maximum civil penalty of \$27,500.00. Vessel salvage is expected to begin later in the week.

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