



United States Coast Guard

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Towboat sinks on the Ohio River; Coast Guard responds

Hebron, KY, January 21 — The towing vessel **ALLEN CARMEN** sank at its moorings in Hebron, KY late on the evening of January 21, 2003—posing a pollution threat of 1,200 gallons of diesel fuel. Personnel from Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Cincinnati and Marine Safety Office Louisville responded immediately upon receiving the report. There were no reported injuries; however, diesel fuel has been spilled and the sunken vessel continues to leak at an estimated rate of 1 gallon per minute. The vessel owner, Bellevue Sand and Gravel, has environmental clean up contractors on scene and the bulk of the spilled fuel is being contained by on-water recovery equipment.

Coast Guard officials will continue to monitor clean-up efforts, finalize an investigation, and determine 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 once the environmental impact of the diesel fuel is minimized.

Contact Lt. Steven Garcia at (502) 582-5194, ext. 38 for further details.

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