

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



# Press Release

Date: August 2, 2004

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## **15 Barge Breakaway From The M/V J. ANDREW ECKSTEIN**

ST. LOUIS – The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP), St. Louis has temporarily closed the Upper Mississippi River from mile marker 178.0 to mile marker 180.0 in order to pin point the location of a grain barge that sank at approximately mile marker 179.2 at 10:30 p.m. on August 1, 2004.

While transiting the Upper Mississippi River the M/V J. Andrew Eckstein's port face wire parted from the vessel's 15 grain barge tow causing all 15 barges to float uncontrollably down river. As a result, the Poplar St. Bridge was struck by an undetermined number of barges causing one to sink. In order to minimize further damage to the various structures along the riverfront five fleeting towboats belonging to Riverway Harbor Services, Osage Marine, and Lewis & Clark Marine assisted in safely retrieving the remaining 14 grain barges.

The Missouri Dept. of Transportation was contacted by this office and asked to survey the damage to the Poplar St. Bridge. Survey was completed and bridge was found to be structurally sound. Okie Moore Diving and Salvage Co. will be on-scene shortly to sound the area and to re-float the sunken barge. No personnel were injured as a result of this incident.

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