



Gulf Strike Team – Quarterly e-News

January – March 2008



News

Greetings everyone! The first quarter has flown by, and we have spent a significant number of hours on the road conducting training for and with our field units and partners. In addition, we ramped up and responded to several interesting cases – a little something for everyone. We also spent a significant amount of time conducting intensive internal training to ensure we are ready for another busy summer, and we conducted our two week maintenance period ensuring our gear is ready for another year. All of this with no time to spare as we are already facing a very busy schedule for April, May and June (see bottom of page 2). Have a great Spring!

Customer Service

Please let me know if there is any way the GST can improve its service and support to you. Our 24-Hour number is (251) 441-6601 or you can call me any time on my cell phone: (251) 776-2793. My official e-mail address is virginia.j.kammer@uscg.mil. When I am TAD or on response I also use the following address: cogulfstriketeam@gmail.com.

Case & Exercise Summaries

February

NSF 025-08: M/V Centaurus Leader; GST assisted MSU Savannah with response efforts stemming from the grounding of the RO/RO Vessel Centaurus Leader in the port of Brunswick, GA. GST deployed four members to provide site-safety, contractor monitoring, salvage/dive expertise, oil spill contingency planning, photo and cost documentation, February 14-21.

Location: Port of Brunswick, GA **OSC:** LCDR Weaver

NSF 026-08: Operation Burnt Frost; GST provided personnel to support Federal Joint Interagency Task Forces which were established to coordinate response activities stemming from the potential re-entry of a satellite into Earth's atmosphere. Two GST members deployed to Dallas and Atlanta to serve as Coast Guard liaisons, February 20-22.

Location: Dallas, TX, and Atlanta, GA **OPCON:** Commander, Deployable Operations Group.

Mississippi Phosphate, Sulfur Trioxide Release; GST provided assistance to CG Sector Mobile, AL with response to a release of sulfur trioxide vapor at the Mississippi Phosphates facility in the Port of Pascagoula, MS. GST deployed a four person team to the scene to assess the situation. Shortly after their arrival, the facility's response personnel were able to secure the release and no further assistance was necessary, February 20.

Location: Pascagoula, MS **OSC:** CAPT Stanton

Exercises/Training

- Provided **ICS 339** course for 30 NSF and Sector Mobile personnel at GST, February 9-10.
- Provided **oil spill booming strategies and deployment training** with Sector Miami, STA Fort Lauderdale and Fort Lauderdale Fire Department, February 6-9.
- Provided NSF capabilities brief/technical advice in support of Navy **SUPSALV TTX in Bahrain** with Arabian Gulf nations, U.S. Navy, and CENTCOM personnel, February 8-15.
- Provided 3 ICS coaches for **Sector Miami's PREP** drill, February 11-15.
- Provided First Responder Operations (FRO) Hazwoper training to Sector Houston/MSU Galveston responders and supported District 8 during a **Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS)** training evolution, February 25-29.
- Provided FRO Hazwoper training to ELM and Sector North Carolina responders and conducted **Spilled Oil Recovery System (SORS)** training, February 25-29.

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- Conducted and successfully completed the first ever NSF Ready for Operations evaluation for Hazmat, WMD, and Oil Spill response, February 25-29.

March

NSF 016-08: Greka Energy Oil Spill; GST deployed personnel to augment the Pacific Strike Team at the Greka Energy facility oil spill site to provide contractor monitoring, site-safety, and cost documentation: March 9th – April 5th.

Location: Buellton, CA **OSC:** Mr. Robert Wise

NSF 029-08: Partin Well Number 5 - Oil Spill Clean-up; GST deployed to assist and is still assisting the EPA with contractor oversight, cleanup and assessment of an oil well spill; case opened March 28th.

Location: Oliver Springs, TN **OSC:** Mr. Carter Williamson

NSF 031-08: Stolthaven Terminal Fluorosilicic Acid Release; GST provided and is still providing technical assistance with the remaining 502,016 gallons of fluorosilicic acid (23-25% concentration) currently contained in two tanks on the facility. The facility operator is preparing plans to treat the remaining acid on-site to prevent further releases to the environment; case opened March 27th.

Location: Braithwaite, LA **OSC:** CAPT Stroh

Exercises/Training

- Provided **FRO Hazwoper training** to CGC MARIA BAY and Sector Jacksonville personnel and conducted **VOSS training** evolution on board the CGC MARIA BRAY, March 3-7.

- Provided **ICS 210 instruction** to more than 200 field-level responders, active and reserve for Sector North Carolina, March 3-14.

- Provided a subject matter expert in support of the Oil Spill Recovery Technician course at the OHMSET facility in Leonardo, NJ. Assisted training over 30 Sector and cutter personnel to be proficient in **VOSS and SORS operations**, March 17-21.

- Trained 30 Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee Civil Support Team members in **ICS 300 and 400** at the 46th CST in Montgomery, AL, March 24-28.

- Provided subject matter expert to assist Sector Key West with annual review of Area Contingency Plan, March 25-28.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Please call ENS Mike Oubre if you are interested in upcoming events: (251) 441-6601.