



Gulf Strike Team – Quarterly e-News

April - June 2009



News

This quarter's focus was on training and outreach which will serve all of us well for the upcoming hurricane season. We are in the midst of transfer season here at GST and most notably, we have a new Executive Officer, LCDR Mark Shepard. He has a great background for Strike Team duty and has been stationed in the gulf region before. In the near future, we will be reaching out to all the Coast Guard Sectors to make sure we have up-to-date information on your Response and Incident Management Departments.

Have a Happy Fourth of July!

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

April

NSF 020-09; Sunken Tank Barge TTI-160; GST deployed 2 personnel to assist Sector Lower Mississippi River with salvage expertise, site safety, contractor monitoring, & cost documentation for salvage operations on the tank barge TTI-160. The barge had been carrying about 4,400 barrels of zinc-calcium bromide solution (drilling brine). Case opened March 31; closed April 5.

Location: West Memphis, AR

OSC: Sector Lower Mississippi River

Exercises/Training and Outreach

- Provided 1 personnel to give a National Strike Force (NSF) capabilities briefing at CG District Eight's **Liaison Officer Training**, April 4.
- Provided 2 instructors/coaches in support of Sector Mobile for the **ICS-300/400 course** in Mobile, AL, April 5-9.
- Provided 2 personnel to attend and give an NSF capabilities briefing at the **FBI's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Conference** in Mobile, AL, April 7-9.
- Provided 3 subject matter experts to conduct booming training for Sector Miami, April 14-15.
- Provided 2 subject matter experts to attend the Deployable Operations Group's (DOG) **Communications Workshop** in Las Vegas, NV, April 14-16.
- Provided 2 liaisons and subject matter experts to participate with the Coast Guard Maritime Security Response Team (MSRT) in the **DOG's Gulf Oil Platform (GOPLAT) exercise** near New Orleans, LA, April 20-24.
- Provided 1 subject matter expert to attend a **Hurricane Operational Workgroup Meeting** to standardize products for future Texas hurricane-related hazardous materials and oil responses with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas General Land Office (TGLO), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Austin, TX, April 28-29.

May

NSF 028-09; DEPOD 09-147; GST deployed 1 personnel to assist Sector Seattle and the Deployable Operations Group to fill a request for forces. Case opened May 3 and closed May 14.

Location: Tacoma, WA

OSC: Sector Seattle

NSF 031-09; Kingston Fly Ash Release; GST deployed 4 personnel to assist EPA Region 4 with boat operations, incident management support, site safety, and cost documentation at the TVA Kingston fossil fuel plant. On December 22, 2008, retaining walls failed at the plant, resulting in

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a release of approximately 5.4 million cubic yards of fly ash from on-site dewatering cells; some of the ash entered into the Emory River and surrounding areas. Case opened May 31.

Location: Harriman, TN

OSC: Leo Francendese

Exercises/Training and Outreach

- Completed annual **Ready For Operations (RFO) evaluation** for hazmat, WMD, and oil spill response at GST, May 6-9.
- Provided 4 personnel to attend the **DOG Commander's Conference** in Colorado Springs, CO, May 11-15. **LTJG Ryan Dickson** was honored as the DOG's Officer Responder of the Year, and **MST2 Dustin Fitzgerald** was honored as the DOG's Enlisted Responder of the Year. Congratulations!
- Provided 1 instructor in support of the **Oil Spill Response Technician Course** at the OHMSETT facility in Leonardo, NJ. Assisted training Sector and cutter personnel to be proficient in Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) and Spilled Oil Recovery System (SORS) operations, May 11-15.
- Hosted the **NSF Salvage Course** for 30 members from 12 units in Mobile, AL, May 19-21.
- Provided 1 subject matter expert to provide training at the **CG Response Department Head Course** in Yorktown, VA, May 22.
- Hosted **ICS 339 Division/Group Supervisor Course** for 13 personnel, May 26-27.
- Provided 1 subject matter expert to present a Hurricane IKE case study at the **New York Emergency Management Conference** in Long Island, NY, May 27.
- Provided 1 subject matter expert to attend the **Region 6 Regional Response Team** meeting in Amarillo, TX, May 27-28.
- Provided 1 subject matter expert/ICS coach in support of **Sector San Juan's PREP** exercise, May 27-28.

June

NSF 032-09; Ingomar Ammunitions; GST deployed 1 personnel to assist PST and EPA Region 9 with site safety and health for a hobbyist who was running an ammunition re-loading business out of his house. Case opened June 7.

Location: Receda, CA

OSC: Rob Wise

Exercises/Training and Outreach

- Provided 2 liaisons to assist with **multi-agency coordination at an exercise** with the FBI, Sector Mobile, and the 46th (Alabama), 43rd (S. Carolina), and 41st (Kentucky) Civil Support Teams in Mobile, AL, June 1-5.
- Provided 2 evaluators for **AST Ready for Operations** evaluation for hazmat, WMD, and oil spill response in Ft. Dix, NJ, June 8-12.
- Provided 1 subject matter expert/ICS coach in support of **Sector Detroit's PREP** exercise, June 10.
- Hosted **Federal On-Scene Coordinator's Representative (FOSCR)** Seminar for 63 members from 27 units in Jacksonville, FL, June 23-25.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

11-14 August: Region IV RRT Meeting in Huntsville, AL

24-28 August: CST Work Group; Point Clear, AL

1 September: Joint Response Team meeting in South Padre Island, TX

2-4 September: NSF Executive Steering Committee meeting in Elizabeth City, NC

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