

Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston
Marine Safety Unit Galveston
Vessel Traffic Service Houston

Port Security Information Bulletin
PSIB 31-03

Change in Maritime Security Condition (MARSEC)
December 21, 2003

The purpose of this PSIB is to announce that the Captain of the Port has raised the Maritime Security Condition (MARSEC) in the ports of Houston, Galveston, Texas City, and Freeport from MARSEC I to MARSEC II.

This shift occurred in accordance with direction from the Secretary of Homeland Security to raise the Homeland Security Advisory level from Yellow (Elevated) to Orange (High).

As indicated in PSIB 30-03, Change in Homeland Security Advisory Level, the Coast Guard has no specific maritime threat information regarding the Houston-Galveston port areas.

Should the Coast Guard receive specific threat information involving the Houston-Galveston area, it will be conveyed through the appropriate communications channels and released as soon as possible in accordance with federal security regulations.

Local Coast Guard commands will continue to coordinate with local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as the maritime community to ensure that all stakeholders in the Ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City are maintaining a heightened state of vigilance and readiness.

All vessel and facility operators are advised to report all suspicious persons or activities to MSO Houston-Galveston at (713) 671-5100 ext. 0.

The U.S. Coast Guard reminds the maritime industry that they may also report information concerning suspicious activity to the National Response Center (NRC) via the NRC's 24-hour telephone number at 1-800-424-8802.

Facilities and vessels need to contact MSO Houston-Galveston, (713) 671-5133, or MSU Galveston, (409) 682-1264 when MARSEC II condition levels have been achieved.

RICHARD M. KASER
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port
Federal Maritime Security Coordinator