

Port of Galveston Shows Resilience after Hurricane Ike

For Immediate Release

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GALVESTON – September 22, 2008 – Hurricane Ike made landfall on Galveston Island a little more than one week ago as a Category 2 storm. Its impact on the Island will be felt by the community for many years.

Ike's damage to the Port of Galveston was both substantial and widespread. All port authority staff have been accounted for and are safe; some remained on the Island throughout the storm and its aftermath, working in tandem with City emergency operations in an effort to prioritize and protect. The Port of Galveston continues to work cooperatively with authorities to restore Island infrastructure, however communications, power and water continue to be challenging. The Port is working to open a temporary office on the mainland.

Initial operations assessments completed last week reveal extensive water damage to port assets and infrastructure. No large commercial vessels were docked at port authority facilities during the hurricane. Covered and uncovered cargo were subjected to high winds, debris impact, storm water surges and flooding, however, all cargo has been secured and contained. Port equipment, buildings and other facilities also experienced damage. Fortunately Cruise Terminal No. 1 suffered relatively minor damage and is currently being repaired. Cruise Terminal No. 2, while suffering more damage, will be ready to resume cruise operations in December.

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Port operations are currently in a recovery mode. The Port is expected to be open to vessel traffic and limited cargo vessel operations beginning the week of September 22, 2008. Port Director Steve M. Cernak said, "We may have taken a direct hit but we aren't down for the count. We are picking ourselves up and moving on and will be ready to handle our first cargo vessel this week, and our first cruise vessel in early October."

Cernak noted that the Port's contingency plans have been fully activated. Detailed damage assessments continue to roll in. The Port is working with authorities to restore power to port facilities as soon as possible; many facilities are temporarily running on generators. Safety and security are paramount and the Port is working with appropriate federal, state and local agencies to ensure regulatory compliance. Cleaning and repair efforts have begun.

At this time only emergency personnel and work crews are allowed on Galveston Island.

- Inquiries about port industry personnel should be directed to (409) 927-8634.
- Inquiries about cruise passenger vehicles should be directed to (888) 838-7678 (leave message including name, working phone number(s), working email addresses, vehicle model/make/license number).
- For additional information on temporary cruise re-positioning contact your travel agent or cruise line.
- Inquiries about cargo should be directed to (409) 927-8634.
- All other port authority related inquiries should be directed to (409) 927-8634.

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