



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: April 19, 2009
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Update on Work for Tomorrow **BOAT REMOVAL AT SAN MATEO-HAYWARD BRIDGE ENDS FOR THE DAY; CONTRACTOR WILL RETURN TOMORROW**

Hayward - Caltrans, the Coast Guard, and California Department of Fish and Game have ended work on the boat removal for the evening because the contractor will need a larger barge and crane to remove the remaining hull of the boat that grounded along the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge. **The contractor will bring in a larger barge and crane tomorrow.** Crews successfully removed the rest of the top side of the boat and small debris today. The hull and engine that are wedged in the mud are too heavy to be removed with the current crane.

Caltrans will close the shoulder of westbound 92 on the bridge for a half mile in order for crews to work beginning at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Monday, April 20. Three lanes will remain open on the westbound bridge.

Caltrans issued an emergency contract on Friday to remove the damaged boat and to repair the chipped concrete on the bridge rail. Flatiron Construction repaired the rail on Saturday while Vortex Marine Construction removed two-thirds of the boat from the water using a barge and crane on Saturday and Sunday.

Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game and other environmental agencies are monitoring any potential fuel release during the removal operations. Presently, there are booms around the boat to prevent spills. No fuel release was detected today.

Caltrans engineers have found some cosmetic damage to the underside of the bridge and the contractor will need to repair those chipped sections. There is no structural damage. Light poles that were sheared off on Tuesday will be replaced at a future date when materials are available.

On Tuesday evening, the fishing vessel "Big Timber" lost propulsion and ran aground after colliding with the bridge during a storm that brought high winds and heavy seas to the bay. Two crew members aboard were rescued by the Coast Guard and the other crew member climbed onto the bridge after the vessel struck it.

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