



U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



## Incident Report: Davy Crockett Emergency Response

Updated: February 3, 2011

*\* This information is considered to be accurate at the time of this report, but is subject to change as new information becomes available.*

### Response Actions as of Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 5:00PM

- After a day of carefully pumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of Columbia River water into two of its cargo holds, operations to stabilize the Davy Crockett stern are nearly complete.
- Once this step is complete, divers will attempt to survey the stern tanks to investigate compartments that have yet to be assessed for oil, fuel or other contaminants. This work will begin once the work to stabilize the stern is complete.
- Other work planned for the coming days includes sampling river sediments and water to measure impacts of PCB-tainted oil that was released from the Davy Crockett and making decisions about how to address any pollutants that could be on board.



### Information Summary of Week 2 Response:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Personnel Currently Assigned:</b>          | 128 state, federal, local and response contractors |
| <b>Oil water mixture:</b>                     | 3500 gallons                                       |
| <b>Debris removed:</b>                        | 49,600 pounds                                      |
| <b>Oil containment boom:</b>                  | 3600 feet  |
| <b>Oil adsorbent boom:</b>                    | 10,000 feet  |
| <b>Total recovery capability of skimmers:</b> | 750,000 gallons per day                            |
| <b>Total waste oil storage volume:</b>        | In excess of 1 million gallons                     |

### Incident Summary

A 431-foot flat-deck barge called the Davy Crockett is partially sunk on the shoreline of the Columbia River near Camas, Washington approximately 4 miles upstream of the Interstate 205 Bridge. The vessel

has partially fractured into two sections and is leaking oil. Response crews and equipment are on-scene recovering the majority of the oil near the vessel as it leaks.

### **Davy Crockett History**

The Davy Crockett is a former US Navy Liberty Ship that has been converted to a flat-deck barge. As with many aging vessels, ownership of the vessel has changed several times throughout the years. The most recent ownership change occurred in mid-2010. The vessel is anchored on the Columbia River, on Washington State owned aquatic lands.

In April 2009, due to concerns of fugitive oil sheen leaking from the vessel and the instability of the moorings, the US Coast Guard issued a *Captain of the Port Order* for removal of bulk oil, contaminated water and other hazardous materials. The order also required the vessel to be adequately secured to the shoreline to prevent it from becoming a hazard to navigation. The materials removed from the vessel included 2,200 gallons of a diesel/water mixture, 800 gallons of ballast water and 2,800 gallons of fuel oil.

### **Recent Events Leading to Emergency Response**

On January 27, 2011 an 11 mile mystery oil sheen on the Columbia River at Vancouver was tracked by the Department of Ecology to the 431-foot flat-deck barge Davy Crockett. The vessel was partially sunk near the north shore between Vancouver and Camas four miles upstream of the Interstate 205 Bridge. Due to recent improper and unpermitted salvaging operations, the vessel was fractured into two sections and was leaking oil.

Response efforts began immediately to contain oil and initiate operations to stabilize the vessel. Due to the vessel owner's inability to conduct the cleanup and salvage, the U.S. Coast Guard "federalized" the incident and is paying for the response effort. The Coast Guard, Department of Ecology and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are managing the response and salvage effort in a unified manner under the Incident Command System.

The bow section of the vessel is currently sitting on the river bottom next to the shoreline and the stern section rose up to 30-feet in elevation. This structural instability of the vessel and safety concerns is making the complete assessment of oil products onboard impossible.

### **Incident Potential**

The exact potential volume of oil still on board that could spill is unknown due to safety and access challenges. Total potential oil based on capacity of all liquid tanks is 717,000 gallons, but as the stern section is stabilized, responders will attempt to accurately gauge how much oil actually remains in the vessel.

For up to date information, refer to the Ecology website at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/incidents/DavyCrockett/DavyCrockett.html>