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Press Release #5
Monday, August 16, 2010
2:00 p.m.

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Press Release
Well Blowout

On Monday, August 16, 2010, an assessment was made of the well site and preparations for placing a relief well and a staging area for capping the blowout well continues.

Progress was slow on Sunday, 8/15/10, due to the weather conditions (wind changing). Residence probably observed large amounts of black smoke coming from the well site on Sunday. This was due to equipment on site prior to the blowout that was not able to be removed and was ignited from the wind change and hot spots from the previous control burn attempts. The relief well should be on location about mid week.

Several strategies and/or missions are being conducted: Plans for a control burn continues to be discussed. Preparations continue to make the well site safer for the working environment and the capping of the well. Mats and dirt are being brought in and placed around the well site for equipment to be placed for work to be performed.

Weather continues to be a problem (wind, rain, and heat). Safety is priority for workers and the community. Air monitoring is continuing 24 hrs. each day and there have been no readings outside of the immediate well site (1 mile radius).

Roadway Closure: LA 70 between LA 1 and LA 996 and LA 1003 between LA 70 and Klozville Ln. remains closed due to the incident. Traffic is being re-routed via LA 996 and LA 1000.

Evacuation: Only 6 homes, 1 business and No Problem Raceway have been evacuated due the 1 mile perimeter that has been established around the incident site.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness at (985) 369-7386 or the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office at (985) 369-2912.

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