

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 24, 2021 Contact: <u>oem@vctx.org</u> Phone: 361.580.5770

OFFICIALS CONTINUE CLEANUP OF HAZARDOUS SPILL IN DRY CREEK

Emergency officials continue to monitor cleanup efforts of the red diesel spill into Dry Creek that occurred in the 2700 block of Old Goliad Road on Sunday.

According to Emergency Management Coordinator Rick McBrayer and Victoria County Fire Marshal Richard Castillo the response and recovery is going well.

"Atlas, the responsible party, is being very cooperative in their response and recovery efforts," McBrayer said. "They have two hazmat contractors on the scene and have vacuumed a little over 75,000 gallons of liquid from Dry Creek so far."

Chief Castillo said an additional 10 vacuum trucks will be brought in today to assist in cleanup efforts. Additional berms and protective measures will be added to the creek today.

Officials said traffic control measures are in place on roadways in the area of the spill. The public should expect traffic delays on Old Goliad Road and should be aware of heavy equipment activity on the roadway.

Yesterday's investigation and analysis revealed only 12 residents whose property backs up to Dry Creek were affected by the spill. These residents were contacted and water samples were taken and sent for analysis. Authorities are confident that the water wells are safe.

Authorities do not anticipate any other associated hazards at this time.

Environmental agencies such as Texas Parks and Wildlife will arrive on-scene today to begin assessing recovery needs.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

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