



CITY OF KENNER

News Release

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 19, 2017

AIR QUALITY TESTING IN KENNER REVEALS NO HEALTH ISSUES IN AFTERMATH OF RIG BLAST

WILLIAMS BOULEVARD BOAT LAUNCH REOPENED TO PUBLIC

Kenner, LA. – Since Sunday evening, an ongoing response to the oil platform explosion has taken place at the Williams Boulevard Boat Launch as the operations staging location. Sunday's explosion sent seven platform workers to local hospitals and three remain hospitalized and an eighth worker, Timothy Morrison of Katy, Texas, remains missing, officials have said. The search for Morrison was called off on Wednesday by the U.S. Coast Guard, though the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Jefferson Parish Fire Department and Kenner Police Department continued to search.

Clovelly Oil Company hired the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health to conduct air monitoring in Kenner neighborhoods. The plan to conduct that analysis had been approved by U.S. Coast Guard officials participating in the investigation into the explosion. On Thursday, CTEH issued the detailed technical results of the air monitoring.

They noted: "The results of real-time air monitoring in the community indicate that crude oil and natural gas-associated compounds and combustion products were not present at levels that would pose a health concern."

"While recognizing this is certainly good news for the city of Kenner, we continue to offer our prayers and best wishes to the victims, their families and anyone affected by this tragedy," Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn said.

A shoreline search for oil as well as debris continues on Thursday involving the Kenner Fire Department, US Coast Guard, and several contractors for Clovelly. Any oil samples found will be tested to see if it is a result of the incident. Debris is being properly disposed of by the contractors.

Emergency Management Director Doug Dodt said operations at the boat launch involving agencies investigating the explosion have been scaled back. As a result, the boat launch, as well as the park, were reopened to the public at 3 p.m.

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Caution is still advised as shoreline oil and debris identification is ongoing as is clean up of the oil platform. The public may enjoy the area, but proceed with caution given the circumstances.

"While the rig was not located within Kenner city limits, we are working hand-in-hand with the Sheriff's Office and the other agencies investigating this event," Zahn said. "We appreciate the patience of our residents as far as the closing of the boat launch is concerned."

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