

Hazmat Incident – Thursday April 4, 2024 Update

On Thursday April 4, 2024, at approximately 9:20 am, the Harbor Department received a call from the Steamship Authority who reported a fuel sheen in the Harbor that appeared to be coming from the R M Packer area. The Harbormaster contacted and consequently received a call from the R M Packer Compliance Officer, who reported a fuel leak from an unused inground holding tank. High tidal water pushed approximately 15/20 gallons of fuel out of tank and into harbor. The hazard was contained and is no longer leaking into the Harbor causing a sheen. The Compliance Officer notified NRC and other state, federal and local authorities. The Harbor Department staff walked the beach area, and no residue from the leak was observed. By 10:20 am the sheen on the water in the Harbor had dissipated. Harbor Department staff attended the site to observe where the leak was coming from and to confirm that it was no longer leaking. The unused fuel tank was pumped out into a secure container for removal. In addition, R.M. Packer boomed off the area to ensure no additional fuel entered the waterway.

On Friday April 5, 2024, Harbor Department staff attended a site meeting with the Coast Guard and RM Packer Compliance Officer. Soil samples were taken at the site. R.M. Packer has a scheduled meeting today with an off-island company that specializes in remedial removal of any soil contamination, to begin preparations for the equipment needed and for coordination of the safe removal of the inground tank that will begin at the same time as any removal contaminated soil.

The Harbor Department remain in communication with Coast Guard and R.M. Packer on updates with immediate cleanup operations on site.