



CONTACT:
Randy Gehl
Public Information Officer
563-589-4151 (office)
rgehl@cityofdubuque.org
www.cityofdubuque.org

NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2008 – 11:20 PM – For Immediate Release

UPDATE: Julien Dubuque Bridge Closed Until Further Notice

DUBUQUE, Iowa – At 8:08 p.m. tonight, a barge struck one of the supports of the Julien Dubuque/U.S. Highway 20 Bridge in the Mississippi River at Dubuque. The bridge is closed to traffic and will remain closed until staff from Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) can fully assess the bridge for damage. IDOT staff expect to begin the inspection Tuesday morning.

Fifteen fully loaded barges (10 with corn, four with soybeans, and one with iron ore) struck one of the bridge pillars on the eastern side of the main channel. Twelve of the barges have been collected and secured. One barge is impaled on the bridge pillar and is taking on water and the two other barges are stuck nearby. Newt Marine, a local marine fleet service, is working on the scene to collect and secure those three barges. No injuries were reported and all members of the barge crew have been accounted for.

The Julien Dubuque Bridge carries two-lane U.S. Highway 20 over the Mississippi River and connects Dubuque, Iowa, and East Dubuque, Illinois. Traffic is being diverted as follows:

- Eastbound U.S. 20 traffic traveling from Iowa to Illinois is being diverted to Locust Street north to the Locust Street Connector to U.S. 61/151 north (over the Dubuque/Wisconsin Bridge) to WI 11 east to WI/IL 35 south to U.S. 20 eastbound.
- Westbound U.S.20 Illinois traffic bound for Iowa is being diverted to IL/WI 35 north to WI 11 west (over the Dubuque/Wisconsin Bridge) to U.S. 61/151 south to Locust Street Connector to Locust Street south to U.S.20 (Dodge Street) westbound.

Dubuque Fire Department, Dubuque Police Department, East Dubuque Fire Department, East Dubuque Police Department, Jo Daviess County, Iowa Department of Transportation, and the City of Dubuque Emergency Operation Center staff responded to the incident.

###