



# NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **PRE-ACTIVITY BRIEFING FOR MULTI-AGENCY EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL PLANNED FOR SAN FRANCISCO BAY, AUGUST 7-10**

NOAA will hold a media briefing to provide background and details about "Safe Seas 2006" an emergency exercise response drill to be held August 7-10 in waters off California's central coast adjoining San Francisco Bay. There will be more than 250 total personnel participating, including representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, other state trustees, and oil and marine transportation industry representatives.

**WHAT:** Media briefing about Safe Seas 2006 emergency response exercise August 7-10

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 13, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. Pacific, (12:30 p.m. Eastern)

**Media Call In Number:** 1-888-577-8993 (password is 55982)

**WHERE:** Fort Mason, Building C, Room 210 (C21), San Francisco (Media are welcome to attend briefing in person as well. For directions to Fort Mason, visit <http://www.fortmason.org/directions/index.shtml>)

**WHO:** Speakers representing overall drill exercise lead NOAA and participating major agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and the oil and marine transportation industry will detail the drill objectives and activities. Media coverage opportunities will be detailed including possible embedding with some portions of drill and on water exercises on August 9, as well information about technology showcase on August 7. Presentations will be followed by a reporter question and answer session. Additional Information will be available on the Safe Seas Web site, [www.safeseas.noaa.gov](http://www.safeseas.noaa.gov) (available after July 13, 2006)

**BACKGROUND:** The Safe Seas 2006 exercise design focuses on the marine collision of a bulk freight cargo ship *M/V Blue Harp* inbound to San Francisco from Long Beach, with the outbound tug *Earnest Campbell*, towing the tank barge *Dottie*, en route to Los Angeles. The barge sinks from the collision, with oil spilling from both the barge and damaged cargo ship. The pollutants spilled during this exercise will be simulated by the release of hundreds of drift cards, which are designed to model floating pollutants at the site of the hypothetical collision and sinking. Using this scenario, the Safe Seas 2006 exercise will bring together federal, state, and local responders in order to increase response readiness to a large oil spill in a National Marine Sanctuary in central California.

**On the Web:**  
[www.safeseas.noaa.gov](http://www.safeseas.noaa.gov) (available after July 13, 2006)