Barges, tugboat moved

Westside bureau

WHISKEY BAY — Authorities stopped all Interstate 10 traffic about an hour Thursday as the U.S. Coast Guard Gulf strike team and a private salvage crew moved three barges and a tugboat upstream in the Whiskey Bay Pilot Channel.

State Police and parish sheriff’s departments halted all traffic from Port Allen to Henderson and reported no problems.

One of three barges being pushed by a tugboat Tuesday rammed into an I-10 pier, causing traffic to be diverted for four hours while authorities assessed the damage. One of the barges leaked neohexane, a flammable substance, into the river, but the substance did not harm the environment, according to State Police spokesman Mike Sager.

The vessels were taken to Krotz Springs so their contents could be removed, said Lt. Rick Berard of the Coast Guard office in New Orleans. The accident is being investigated, Berard said.