



The American Companies

"News Flash"

September 18, 2008

Hurricane Ike and the Houston port situation

Please be aware that some steamship lines have rerouted some cargo bound for Houston to other ports such as New Orleans as they have declared Force Majeure.

Customs offices had been closed until today due to power and/or water supply issues, although Customs was manually processing hot shipments at the airport. They have finally reopened. Remote Location Filing of entry releases should be occurring on a timely basis.

Port of Houston was still closed yesterday with the same for most container freight stations. It appears they have reopened this morning. Rail and intermodal container services have been delayed, as there is no more room at the railheads in Houston for additional containers until the facilities reopen. Some Container Freight Stations, trucking firms and warehouses are now open, but others are still closed due to power outages, it is believed that now most at least have generator power and are now able to answer phones and provide status of their operations. Air cargo is mostly back to full operation.

The city is regaining power incrementally and there are thousands of linemen and tree men from around the country in town helping out. As of yesterday power was restored to about 45% of the customers, there are still an estimated 5 million people that do not yet have power, this might also leave those facilities short staffed.

If you would like to see status for yourself, please check the port of Houston website at www.portofhouston.com.

The BNSF has announced "in order to assist with recovery efforts the BNSF is providing storage relief from Thursday September 11, 2008 through Sunday September 21, 2008 at their Pearland (Houston) Intermodal Facility".

OTHER IMPORTANT LA/LB PORT INFORMATION

In spite of rumors you may be hearing of a delay in implementation until 11/1/08, the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are adamant that the Clean Truck Port Act will go into effect on 10/1/08 (please see our previous newsletter dated September which was sent to you approximately 09/02/08 regarding this subject). There are fees involved.

Please contact your American Companies representative if you have any further questions.

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