



AMERICAN SALVAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE
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**AMERICAN SALVAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS RESPOND TO BP
THUNDER HORSE IN MISSISSIPPI CANYON**

Washington, DC – Three member companies of the American Salvage Association (ASA) responded and provided salvage assistance to the disabled BP Thunder Horse semi-submersible platform in the Mississippi Canyon area Block 776 located in the deepwater portion of the Gulf of Mexico approximately 150 miles southeast of New Orleans.

The vessel and installation are reported to have a value of more than \$1 billion. The Thunder Horse field is in development and has not yet begun production of hydrocarbons.

Following Hurricane Dennis, the semi-submersible platform was found to be listing at 22 degrees at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Monday, July 12 by a vessel transiting the area. The Thunder Horse platform had been evacuated of all personnel in anticipation of the hurricane's approach.

BP reportedly activated its Incident Command Structure, notified the appropriate regulatory agencies including the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the U.S. Coast Guard, conducted over flights to further assess the extent of the damage, and contracted for salvage assistance.

The ASA member companies were on location within hours after the first call for assistance, conducted surveys and dewatering operations, stabilized and up-righted the vessel.

“Once again, the professional marine salvage industry has responded to a marine emergency, safeguarded the marine environment, prevented further damage and loss of the platform and subsea installation, and protected the field,” said ASA President Dick Fairbanks.

The American Salvage Association is a trade association promoting professionalism and improving marine casualty response in American coastal and inland waters.

