

SALVAGE CLE HYPOTHETICAL

The MLA Salvage Committee's CLE presentation is structured around the following hypothetical.

- * A vessel sails down a river at night in the navigable channel and approaches a segment of the river spanned by a bridge. The vessel is not under pilot.
- * During its approach to the bridge, the Master sees red lighting on the bridge, which he expects to mark the span of the bridge under which the vessel will have sufficient air draft to safely navigate past the bridge.
- * The only span lit with red lights is not the center span, but a different span of the bridge that does not have sufficient clearance for the vessel to safely transit without alliding with the bridge.
- * The vessel maintains its course for the lit span of the bridge and allides with it at a speed of approximately 8 knots.
- * The vessel is wedged under the span with a 5 knot tide pushing it from behind. After several minutes, the span collapses and breaks away from the adjoining spans of the bridge.
- * Although the vessel is freed, most of the steel structure and concrete roadway from the span falls onto the vessel, settling on the vessel's deck and hanging over the sides of the vessel. Another 50 tons of steel structure falls over the side and detaches, crashing into the river and sinking to the bed of the navigable waterway.

- * The bridge debris piled on the vessel impairs the master's visibility. As a result of this and the prevailing nighttime visibility conditions, the vessel runs hard aground just outside the navigable channel and ruptures its bunker tanks.
- * 259 MTs of fuel oil spills from the vessel's bunker tanks and extends a slick down the channel and along the next 5 miles of coastline. A wetlands preserve is located within the area affected by the bunker spill.
- * The Master, in accordance with the vessel response plan, notifies both the US Coast Guard as well as State environmental authorities. The vessel response plan is activated.
- * The plan calls for the use of Westeros Salvage Company, which deploys its spill response and other assets to refloat the vessel, remove remaining bunkers from the vessel's other bunker tanks, and remove the bridge debris from the vessel and the bed of the river's navigable channel.