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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

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Operation of Côte Blanche Pontoon Bridge to be Limited after Fire

The Côte Blanche Pontoon Bridge in Cut Off will open and close on a set schedule now, after a fire severely damaged the bridge control house early Tuesday morning. The bridge tender on duty was able to escape unharmed and there were no other reported injuries. Department of Public Works (DPW) officials report, though, that the bridge control house was completely lost in the fire. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined.

In order to provide residents with access to this bridge, DPW employees will open and close the bridge manually. Beginning today, the bridge will operate as normal from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. daily, with the bridge remaining open overnight for boat traffic only from 7:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.

Lafourche Parish Government will inform residents to any changes in this schedule, and will also work diligently on returning the bridge to normal operational status. DPW Project Manager Terry Arabie indicates that workers will attempt to keep this operating schedule as long as possible, and that the new bridge control house will be constructed at a contractor's fabrication yard in order to expedite construction.

“By constructing a new control house off site, the contractors can work rain or shine,” said Parish President Charlotte Randolph. “We understand the work on this bridge has inconvenienced residents in this area, and we sincerely appreciate everyone's continued patience with this bridge.”

Rodney Doucet, Councilman of District 8 where the bridge is located, echoed those comments. “We are going to work as quickly and efficiently as possible in order to get our new bridge operating properly as it should be,” Doucet said. “We will make every effort to get this done for the people of this parish.”

The Côte Blanche Pontoon Bridge re-opened last week after being closed since January 20th for repairs and upgrades to the entire bridge.

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