



**FOR RELEASE:**

October 28, 2025

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## **LDEQ Update on Smitty's Supply Fire Response**

**BATON ROUGE, LA** — On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) assumed the lead agency role for the impacted offsite ponds, Tangipahoa River and ditches along La. 10 resulting from the Smitty's Supply fire that occurred August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Smitty's Supply has assumed control of all on-site activities under the guidance of EPA and LDEQ. Parish, State and Federal partners continue to work together for oversight and operational needs of all activities associated with the fire.

LDEQ personnel have been on-site since the incident began, working alongside federal, state and local partners. This transition represents a continuation in leadership for the state's environmental response with LDEQ acting as state on-scene coordinator. Large numbers of environmental response contractors are employed in the recovery and response efforts.

Reimbursement for the offsite recovery work will come from the National Pollution Fund Center through a Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA) to the State of Louisiana.

### **Ongoing operations:**

- Air monitoring readings remain below actions levels and air monitoring networks remain in operation around the facility.
- On Oct. 13, 2025, EPA entered into an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (ASAOC) with Smitty's Supply, Inc. (Smitty's) to complete the cleanup of the facility itself.
- On Oct. 14, 2025, Incident Command signed the Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA). Through this PRFA, the state will conduct the cleanup activities of the river, ponds and La. 10 ditches under federal oversight from EPA. The state will continue daytime river and ditch excavation operations and 24-hour operations on ponds.
- U.S. 51 through the site has reopened, and La. 10 is reopened with some traffic limitations – one lane closed during day shift only (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).
- The target to reopen water traffic on the Tangipahoa River is as soon as possible.

- Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) operations continue on the river once cleanup operations are complete on the appropriate segment.

**LDEQ operations conducted on pond and river:**

- Clean-up operations continue on all ponds, La. 10 ditches and river. To date, LDEQ contractors have recovered 13,825 bags of oiled debris and absorbents, 980,997 gallons of liquids and 1,068.43 tons of solids from the impacted offsite areas.
- Due to elevated rivers levels, boom sets are being evaluated and re-secured.
- The loading of oiled vegetation is in progress.
- Night operations will be conducted at select pond locations by LDEQ contractors.
- Wildlife Response Services did not recover any additional wildlife.

**Information is available to the public through multiple hotlines and websites:**

- For Environmental Issues – LDEQ Single Point of Contact Hotline (225) 219-3640; Tangipahoa Parish (985) 748-3211
- Wildlife Response Services, LLC (to report impacted wildlife) – (832) 514-9663
- For Fish Kills – (800) 442-2511
- Smitty’s Claim Hotline – (877) 891-2276
- LDEQ website – [www.deq.louisiana.gov/](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/)
- LDH website – [www.ldh.la.gov](http://www.ldh.la.gov)
- Tangipahoa Parish website – [www.tangipahoa.org](http://www.tangipahoa.org)
- EPA Smitty’s Supply Fire hub site – [epa.gov/smittys-supply-fire](http://epa.gov/smittys-supply-fire)

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