

CANADA Daily News and Updates July 11th 2024

Ocean Updates

- German Seaports Brought to Standstill by Strikes Ahead of Wage Negotiations
- Storms Continue to Pound South African Coast
- U.S.-Flagged Containership Targeted by 'Flying Object' in Gulf of Aden

Rail and Truck Updates

- Construction to Begin on Burnaby Rail Overpass Late This Year
- CPKC Update: Hurricane Beryl Recovery

Ocean Updates

German Seaports Brought to Standstill by Strikes Ahead of Wage Negotiations

German labour union Ver.di called another round of “warning strikes” at the major container ports starting on Tuesday and continuing into Wednesday ahead of the next round of wage and contract negotiations. The union openly says its objective is to pressure terminal operators represented by ZDS (Zentralverband der deutschen Seehafenbetriebe) into a deal, while calling the previous offers “inadequate” to keep up with inflation and the demands of the job.

Dockworkers staged a series of strikes during June tied to each of the three prior rounds of negotiations. Under German labour law, the union is free to call these short-duration “warning strikes” without conducting full votes of the membership each time. Negotiations began in May on the new contract for 11,500 employees at German North Sea ports.

Workers at the port of Hamburg walked off the job on Tuesday morning, July 9, at the start of the first shift of the day, and began protests in the port area. This strike was scheduled to continue through all three shifts on Wednesday, with Ver.di reporting there would also be a larger protest rally on Wednesday.

The port of Bremen/Bremerhaven joined in the strike on Tuesday afternoon with its walkout scheduled to continue till the first shift on Wednesday. While Bremerhaven was due to resume work, dockworkers at the westernmost seaport of Edem were due to walk off the job for the full shift on Wednesday.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

Storms Continue to Pound South African Coast

Storms pounded South Africa’s coastline for a fourth day on Wednesday, disrupting shipping operations, with massive swells forcing the evacuation of a cargo ship.

State-owned port operator Transnet SOC Ltd. said it was monitoring harbour operations impacted by the extreme weather. Vessel traffic rounding the Cape of Good Hope, which has increased as shippers seek to avoid attacks in the Red Sea, has encountered offshore storm surges, with swells forecast as high as 10 metres (32.8 feet).

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

U.S.-Flagged Containership Targeted by 'Flying Object' in Gulf of Aden

A containership operated by Maersk's U.S.-flagged shipping arm reported an attack in the eastern Gulf of Aden as the Iranian-backed Houthis continue to attack ships over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) office said it received a report of an incident 180 nautical miles east of Nishtun, Yemen. The master of a merchant vessel reported an explosion in close proximity to the ship. The vessel and all crew are safe, and the ship is proceeding to its next port of call.

This latest incident occurred far outside the Houthis' traditional threat area near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, where most Houthi attacks have been focused. On June 24th, the Liberian-flagged containership *MSC Sarah V* was targeted with a missile in the Arabian Sea, which ultimately missed the ship. The Houthis later claimed that the attack involved its first use of a "locally made hypersonic missile."

Read more in an [article from gCaptain](#).

Rail and Truck Updates

Construction to Begin on Burnaby Rail Overpass Late This Year

Construction of a new four-lane overpass crossing the rail lines at Holdom Avenue in Burnaby will begin in late 2024. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is delivering the Holdom Overpass project in partnership with the City of Burnaby, CN and the Government of Canada.

Upon completion of the overpass, there will be an increase of rail capacity for Port of Vancouver terminals, supporting the reliable movement of goods through the region, and improved traffic flow and safety for the Burnaby community.

Read more in a [press release from the Port of Vancouver](#).

CPKC Update: Hurricane Beryl Recovery

CPKC's network recovery continues to make strong progress from the impacts of Hurricane Beryl in southern Texas.

Mainline train movements continue, although customers can expect delays through areas impacted by high water levels, as well as downed trees and transmission lines causing widespread power outages.

CPKC response teams are working closely with local authorities to support service restoration efforts. The railway anticipated making significant progress on Wednesday.

If you have questions or concerns, contact CPKC's Customer Solutions team.