

https://www.nola.com/news/traffic/article_7728c87a-b05c-5a91-844d-b2c9cd019491.html

'Heavy damage' after Mardi Gras World struck by barges: NOFD

Sue Strachan MAY 8, 2018 - 1:20 AM

1 of 12



A spotlight shines on the damage to the building and pier after officials say a tugboat lost steering and several barges struck Mardi Gras World where newly sworn Mayor Latoya Cantrell was holding her inaugural ball (at left) on Monday evening, May 7, 2018. (Photo by Michael DeMocker, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune)

Mardi Gras World, a major New Orleans attraction, was struck Monday evening (May 7) by "several barges," which inflicted significant damage to the building, according to the New Orleans Fire Department.

About 6:45 p.m., "a tug lost steering and ran several barges into the Mardi Gras World facility," said NOFD Superintendent Tim McConnell.

"Mardi Gras World sustained some pretty heavy damage," McConnell said.

"As the barges came in, they broke the pilings and caused the wharf structure to fall in," he said. The structure on top then caved in, he said. No one was inside the building at the time.

About 200 feet of wharf have been affected, McConnell said. Structural engineers were on the scene Monday evening but the full extent of the damage will not be known until after daylight Tuesday, he said.

The incident did not affect incoming Mayor LaToya Cantrell's inaugural ball, which was being held nearby, McConnell said. However, access to the wharf area was being restricted, he said.

"It just slammed right into it," said Whitney Sterk, a volunteer who was working the inaugural event. She said the third of a string of

barges headed downriver slammed into the wharf.

"It was just like bam!" Sterk said. "The middle section sort of lost control."

After the collision, dust clouded the air, looking like smoke, Sterk said. "You see all the dust and you're like, oh shoot, is that a fire because you don't know what is this barge carrying."

No injuries were reported. The Coast Guard will be in charge of investigating the collision.

"The building is significantly damaged," said Barry Kern, CEO and President of Mardi Gras World and Kern Studios. "There were floats and props and things that were damaged in what we call our prop-shop."

Kern said a full damage assessment will take place Tuesday.

"Thank God no one was hurt," Kern said.

Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World is a famed float-making facility that doubles as a tourist attraction and event venue, allowing guests a peek at how assorted materials are transformed into ornate displays of Mardi Gras magic.

Blaine Kern Studios opened Mardi Gras World in 1984 after fielding repeated requests for private tours. About 10 years ago, Mardi Gras World moved from Algiers to a much larger spot, its current location near the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Reporter Laura McKnight contributed to this report.

You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

If You Wear Adidas, You're Going to Love This Shopping Hack

Wikibuy

CPAP Makers Running Scared After New Snoring Solution Unveiled

Purch Expert

You've Never Seen Luxury Like This On A Cruise Ship. Research Luxury Mediterranean Cruises

Luxury Cruises | Search Ads

Louisiana Drivers With No Tickets in 3 Years Should Do This On Monday

US Auto Insurance Now

Netflix To Finally Release These Hits This November

refinery29.com

Don't Miss Out On The Facial Celebrities Love

Marie Claire | Hanacure

This Amazon Upgrade is Even Better Than Prime

Honey

5 Best Exercises for Joint Pain

HealthCentral

MORE FROM THE ADVOCATE

- What we learned from LSU vs. Alabama: Scott Rabalais breaks down Game of the Century, Part Deux
- Lafayette attorney permanently disbarred for stealing from clients
- How big was LSU's win in Alabama? No opponent's ever scored more in 4 quarters
- SteelMag3.jpg
- Elvis Costello & The Imposters perform at Mahalia Jackson Theater on Wednesday, Nov. 13

MORE FROM OUR PARTNERS

-
-
-
-
-

Recommended by

|