

Incident Alert

Incident Report:	05/2011
Name and Type of Ship:	<i>Poorna</i> / Offshore tug
Date/Time of Incident:	17 Feb 11 at 0445hrs (local time)
Location of incident:	01° 08'N, 103° 33.16' E
Area Description:	Approximately 6.4 nm southwest of Pulau Nipa (TSS east bound lane)

Details of Incident

On 17 Feb 11 at or about 0445 hrs, an Indian-registered offshore tug, *Poorna* was underway, at approximately 6.4 nm southwest of Pulau Nipa (01°08'N, 103° 33.16' E) when six robbers armed with long knives boarded the vessel from a motorized craft. They broke the porthole glass of aft starboard entrance to the wheel house to open the door from inside. They took away two sets of binoculars and the crew's personal items including mobile phones. The crew was not injured.

The master reported the incident to Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) and the operator reported the incident to MRCC (Mumbai) who are the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) and ReCAAP Focal Point (India) respectively. The POCC initiated navigational broadcast to alert mariners operating in the vicinity and informed the ReCAAP ISC, Singapore's Police Coast Guard, Republic of Singapore Navy, MRCC (Putra Jaya) and MRCC (Jakarta) about the incident.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
ReCAAP Focal Point (India)

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

This is the third incident reported in the vicinity, with each incident occurred after an interval of three days. The latest incident occurred on 17 Feb 11 while the previous two incidents occurred on 14 Feb 11 and 11 Feb 11. On 14 Feb 11 at or about 0415 hrs, a Singapore-registered tug boat, *LCH 425* was underway towing barge *LCH 4255* at approximately 6 nm southwest of Pulau Nipa (01°04.98'N, 103° 35.10' E) when about eight to ten robbers armed with parangs (long knives) boarded the vessel from a motorized sampan (small wooden boat). They robbed the crew of their belongings before escaping. The crew was not injured. On 11 Feb 11, two robbers boarded a Netherlands-registered barge, *Barbeel* towed by a Dominica-registered tug boat, *Pacific Hickory* at

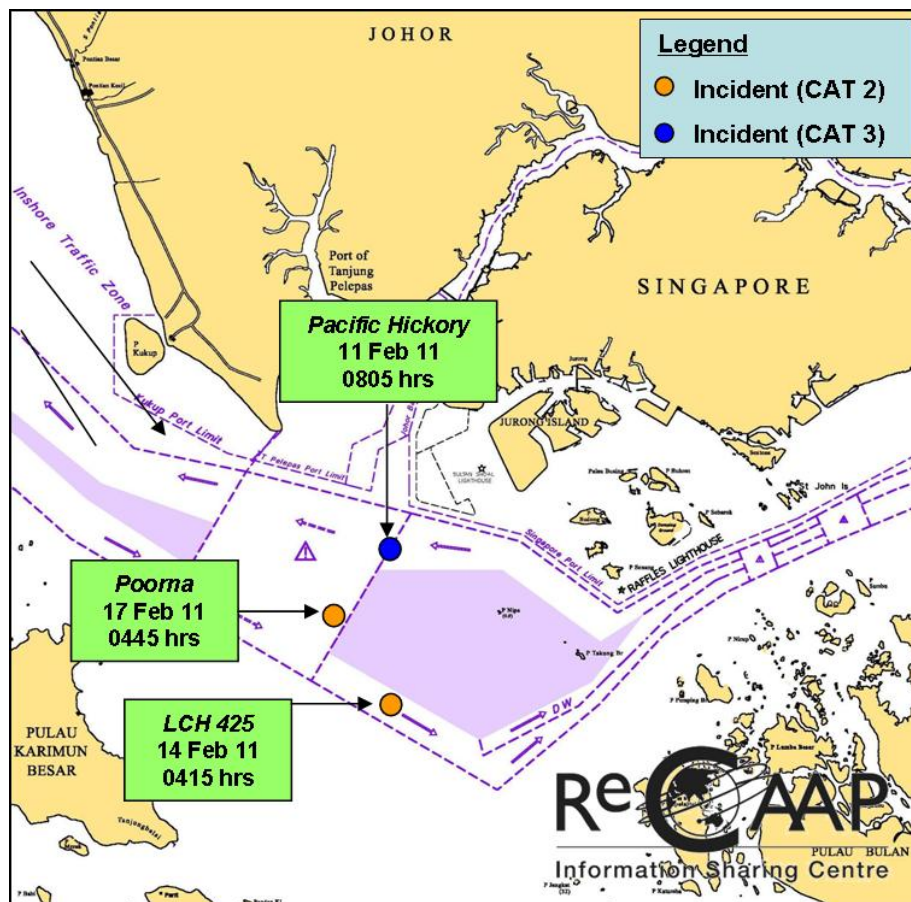


Incident Alert

approximately 4.5 nm northwest of Pulau Nipa (01°11.25'N, 103° 35.33' E). Nothing was reported stolen and the robbers escaped in a small boat. Please refer to the map below on the approximate location of the incidents.

It is assessed that the same group of perpetrators is operating in the vicinity of Pulau Nipa. The ReCAAP ISC observes that tug boats and barges had been relatively more vulnerable due to their low freeboard and slower speed. Masters and crew are advised to maintain heightened vigilance with all around look-out as per established norms, and take necessary precautionary measures when transiting the area, especially during hours of darkness.

The ReCAAP ISC encourages ship masters to report all actual and attempted incidents to the coastal State and flag State immediately. Immediate reporting enables the authorities to initiate broadcast to warn other mariners operating in the area, and provide timely assistance to the ship master.



Approximate location of incidents

