



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE of COMMUNICATIONS

CLINT COINTMENT
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Marvin Braud Pumping Station Update

As reported, the Marvin Braud Pumping Station was temporarily taken offline on Friday, December 30, 2022, in response to a reported fire. Based on our current and ongoing investigation, it was discovered that there was a mechanical failure by means of a ruptured air component in the engine's clutch assembly. This internal failure caused a drop in air pressure, which allowed metal components to come into contact with one another. The heat from this metal-on-metal contact ignited the rubber in the clutch assembly, creating the reported fire. Contractors were on site within the hour and discovered that only three engines received damage. Workers immediately began inspecting damaged pumps and making repairs with spare parts on site. By 7:30 pm on Friday, three (3) of the pumps were turned back on and were operated safely through Sunday, January 2, 2023, to reach target water elevation levels. At 5:00 pm on Sunday, workers were able to activate an additional pump, bringing the total to four (4) pumps online.

Engineers are working now to investigate protective measures that will be able to mitigate events like this in the future. Once these measures are appraised, they will be tasked immediately. While most pumping events are managed using 3 to 4 pumps, current estimates forecast that the Marvin Braud will be at its pump quota of five by early next week.