

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

November 2014 – Week 1

Air Date: October 26 – November 1 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: CRUDE COLLISION

NOVEMBER 1979 AND CATASTROPHE STRIKES THE GULF.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

NOVEMBER 1, 1979. NEAR GALVESTON BAY. CARRYING 16 MILLION GALLONS OF CRUDE OIL, THE SUPERTANKER BURMAH AGATE IS HEADING INTO PORT.

AT ABOUT 5 AM, A CARGO SHIP HITS THE TANKER AND THE SHIPS EXPLODE, KILLING 31 CREW AND SPEWING OIL INTO THE GULF. THE SHIPS BURN FOR TWO MONTHS.

OVER 10 MILLION GALLONS OF OIL ARE RELEASED INTO TEXAS WATERS, WASHING UP ON AREA BEACHES FOR WEEKS. IT'S ONE OF THE WORST OIL SPILLS IN TEXAS HISTORY.

IN 1991 THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE OIL SPILL PROGRAM WAS CREATED TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO SPILLS IN THE GULF.

THE BURMAH AGATE TURNED THE GULF BLACK 35 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

"Burmah Agate," *Incident News* (<http://incidentnews.noaa.gov/incident/6253>), accessed October 16, 2014.

"Burmah Agate," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burmah_Agate), accessed October 16, 2014.