

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

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NEWS RELEASE

Statement on spiders found on Matson vessel

Piti, Guam, November 24, 2010: Port Authority of Guam General Manager Enrique J.S. Agustin issued the following statement regarding spiders found on the Matson MV Manukai which arrived on Guam Tuesday evening inbound from the West Coast:

"At 3:15 a.m. Wednesday morning stevedores working on the Matson MV Manukai opened a hatch and discovered a large black spider along with numerous baby spiders which were later identified by the University of Guam entomologist to be Black Widows. When the stevedores discovered the Black Widows they immediately shut the hatch and notified Port police of their findings. Port police immediately contacted Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency officials and they were told to halt operations. Customs later informed Port officials that stevedores could continue off loading the Guam cargo on the upper decks but not discharge cargo from the affected hatch. That operation is ongoing and is expected to end later today. Once that operation is completed, the ship will be fumigated dockside and then the remaining cargo will be off loaded.

I held a meeting this morning with representatives from the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency and Matson Shipping to discuss the situation and how the vessel will be fumigated. In the meantime, the Port is taking all precautions necessary to ensure the safety of the employees working on the vessel."

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