



Quarterly Report of Oil and Hazardous Substance Response

July 1 - September 30, 1998
Volume 4 - Number 3

Significant Spills This Quarter

Icicle Seafoods - Homer

Date: July 1, 1998
Quantity/Product: 35,000 pounds ammonia
Cause: A high-pressure line broke during the removal of an ammonia receiver



Smoke and ammonia plume from the Icicle Seafoods fire.

A high-pressure line broke during the removal of an ammonia receiver, resulting in an explosion, fire and ammonia release at the Icicle Seafoods plant in Homer. The Homer Fire Department responded to the incident and immediately evacuated personnel from the plant, the Homer Spit and Halibut Cove. A mixed

plume of smoke and ammonia was released from the site. DEC responded to Homer and placed the Anchorage HAZMAT Team on standby. An ammonia HAZMAT specialist from Unocal Chemical Plant provided technical assistance to shut off the main and secondary valves feeding ammonia to the refrigeration system.

Milos Reefer - St. Matthew Island

Date: November 1989 (date of vessel grounding)
Quantity/Product: Unknown quantity petroleum products (bunker and/or diesel suspected)
Cause: vessel grounding

Sheening and tar balls off the grounded M/V Milos Reefer was confirmed by the U.S. Coast Guard on July 8, 1998. The vessel



Milos Reefer

wreckage has been on the island since November 1989. It is believed that residual clingage of fuel to the sides of the fuel tanks most likely is the source of the sheen. The vessel has rusted and deteriorated to the point where the tanks may be exposed to the elements, allowing the residual fuel to be washed

into the water by the surf. As much as 2,000 gallons of fuel remains in the vessel tanks. Extensive wildlife resources are in the immediate area. Seabirds are nesting on the shoreline next to the vessel as well as swimming in large rafts in the Sarichef

Strait. Approximately 100-200 walrus were spotted in various locations in the vicinity. Large numbers of gray whales are known to be in the area.

Faulkner Walsh Tug - Johnson River

Date: August 15, 1998
Quantity/Product: 105 gallons diesel, gasoline, motor oil, hydraulic fluid
Cause: vessel sank

A Faulkner Walsh tug sank in approximately 30 feet of water near the west bank of Johnson River, approximately 1/2 mile upstream from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River. Diesel, hydraulic fluid, and motor oil were released to the water through vents and openings. A sealed drum of gasoline was lost overboard. The vessel's captain was thrown overboard and drowned in the incident and a second crewman was injured. The Department and Faulkner Walsh responded with spill containment materials.

Palmer Correctional Center Facility - Palmer

Date: August 3, 1998
Quantity/Product: 10,000 gallons diesel fuel
Cause: Break in buried 3/4 inch pipeline

Tank reconciliation logs showed abnormal fuel use in June. An investigation on part of the fuel system did not reveal the problem. The records showed abnormal use again in July, and, upon examination of the entire system, a break in a buried pipeline was discovered. The pipeline break was repaired. DEC asked Corrections to install a soil boring to determine the vertical extent of contamination. This information will be used to develop an appropriate corrective action plan.

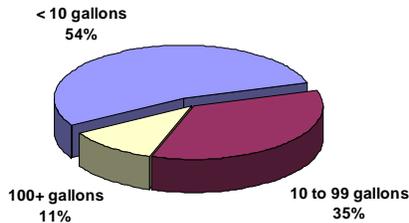
Women's Bay - Kodiak Island

Date: September 1, 1998
Quantity/Product: 870 gallons, Diesel Fuel #2
Cause: Unknown

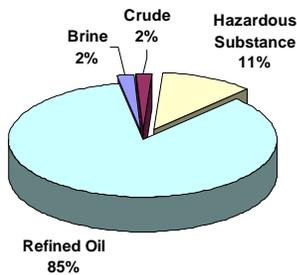
As a result of an internal tank leak, diesel fuel leaked into the fishhold of the vessel L/C Cape Douglas. The fish hold contents were pumped out, releasing the diesel into Women's Bay on Kodiak Island. A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team consisting of DEC and NOAA staff, surveyed the affected shoreline and found impacted shoreline is spotty, extending from Sargent Creek to Shannon Point, with the heaviest oil found on the east side of Frye Point. Clean up operations focused on removing contaminated debris from the more severely impacted areas. ADNR staff confirmed that no archaeological sites are located in the area affected by the spill.

Data Summary

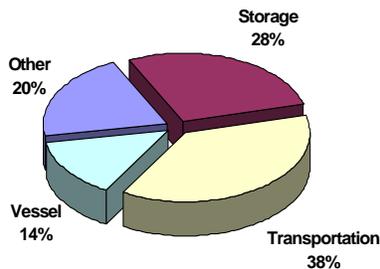
Oil and Hazardous Substance Spills July 1 - September 30, 1998



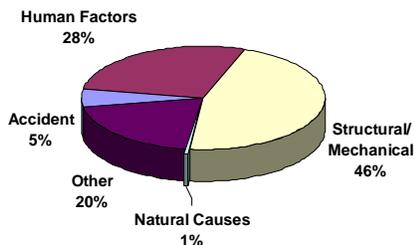
Number of Spills by Size Class



Number of Spills by Product



Number of Spills by Source



Number of Spills by Cause

Spill News

Ongoing Cleanups

Kuroshima Update. The Federal/State/Tribal Resource Trustee Technical Workgroup met several times to discuss Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) associated with the M/V Kuroshima spill. Discussions included scaling of resource injuries, restoration concepts and legal procedures for pursuing a global settlement.

Sagwon Cleanup, Phase I is completed. Drilling muds are scheduled to be collected, containerized, and shipped off-site for disposal. One option being considered for transporting recovered materials off-site is an extension of an ice road near Sagwon that Alyeska is proposing to construct for other purposes.

Drills



U.S. Coast Guard aircraft simulates dispersant delivery during the SONS exercise.



USCG Cutter Sweetbrier deploying skimming equipment during the SONS Exercise.

BP Alaska Spill of National Significance Exercise. ADEC and other State agencies participated in this large-scale field deployment and tabletop drill. The out-of-region Tier III vessel support procedures, identified in the Prince William Sound Tanker Contingency Plan, were tested as part of the field deployment exercise held on September 21. The tabletop portion of the drill was held on September 22-23. The drill involved more than 500 participants from industry, Federal, State, local, and private organizations. Drill activities were centered in Valdez, Anchorage, and other locations throughout the nation. A Final Report on the exercise is scheduled for publication in January 1999. The highlights of the drill will also be presented at the 1999 International Oil Spill Conference, scheduled for March 1999 in Seattle.

Alyeska TAPS Drill. The Department participated in a tabletop drill sponsored by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC). The drill was held at APSC's Fairbanks Emergency Operations Center (FEOC) on August 26. The scenario simulated a major break in the pipeline caused by a strong, localized earthquake adjacent to the Gulkana River crossing. The drill identified the need for additional training on Incident Command System procedures and additional planning regarding the layout and functional operation of the FEOC.

Local Response Preparedness

Nearshore Project. A Local Response Agreement was signed with the Kodiak Emergency Services Council on behalf of the City of Kodiak and Kodiak Island Borough. A Memorandum of Agreement was also signed for transfer of \$400,000 to the Kodiak Island Borough for procurement of nearshore response equipment for Kodiak Island communities.

R&D

The Department has been coordinating with representatives of Environment Canada (EC), the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS), and a number of private consultants and other government

Spill News

agencies on research and development projects. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with MMS for mini-barge decanting studies at the OHMSETT facility in New Jersey. An in-situ burning operational manual to be developed jointly with the U.S. Coast Guard is also being pursued.

The Department received the final report titled "Dispersion of Emulsified Oil at Sea" from AEA Technologies. This report describes the 1997 North Sea field trial, which investigated the effectiveness of dispersants on emulsified crude oils and a residual fuel oil.

Other Responses

Alyeska Marine Terminal. On August 13, the Department responded to a 500-gallon spill at the Alyeska Marine Terminal Ballast Water Treatment Facility. Alyeska workers were in the process of transferring oily water from a tank cleaning project when a 4 inch hose connection ruptured, spilling the oil-water mixture into the containment area of the tank farm. Workers used hot water to flush the oily water into the oily water sewer system sump at the base of Tank 92. Because of Alyeska's improved reporting procedures, Department responders were on-site within one hour from the time the incident was discovered.

Check Valve 122 Repair. On September 25-26, Department staff were on site at Alyeska Pipeline's check valve 122 repair operation, located at milepost 12.5 on the Richardson Highway. During the 28-hour pipeline shutdown, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company was able to make repairs to the check valve by removing most of the oil from that section of pipeline, removing the valve bonnet, and replacing the inner parts of the valve. The Department was pleased with the advanced spill readiness actions that Alyeska had taken. An Incident Action Plan was in place, and six spill task forces were pre-staged. Repair workers found the remains of a bolt and washer in the valve seat, which is the suspected cause of the valve failure.

Ammonia Releases. On July 12, the **Peter Pan Seafood** plant in Dillingham had a one time release of 20 pounds of anhydrous ammonia after an emergency relief valve vented due to over-pressurization. The plant was closed for the day. Vapors were carried by the wind into the main street of Dillingham. Police, troopers, and the fire department issued an emergency order for all residents to stay inside buildings and close the windows until the vapors had dissipated. After 15 minutes, the winds blew the vapors out of town and the order was withdrawn.

On August 10, **Norquest Seafoods** plant in Petersburg experienced a release of approximately 25 to 35 pounds of ammonia when a pressure pop-off valve in a refrigerant line blew. The valve failed to re-seat after the pressure was relieved and remained open for approximately 15 minutes. The plant was evacuated and maintenance workers with PPE secured the valve. There were no injuries.

Spill Digest

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (excluding brine)

Total Count: 78

Total Gallons: 16,005

Top 5 Substances

(does not include releases reported in pounds)

	Product	Count	Gallons
1	Propylene Glycol	7	5,381
2	Ammonia (Anhydrous)	6	100
3	2,4,5-T	1	30
4	Ethylene Glycol (Antifreeze)	6	24
5	Methyl Alcohol (Methanol)	1	20

Top 5 Causes

	Cause	Count	Gallons
1	Overturn/Capsize	3	4,045
2	Seal Failure	1	630
3	Leak, Other	10	232
4	Tank Overfill	2	175
5	Valve Faulty	1	120

Top 5 Sources

	Source	Count	Gallons
1	Pipeline	9	5,394
2	Industrial Vehicle	3	4,086
3	Refinery	1	3,000
4	Tank Farm	3	782
5	Home/Office/Business	16	301

CRUDE AND REFINED OIL

Total Count: 466

Total Gallons: 28,180

Top 5 Substances

	Product	Count	Gallons
1	Diesel	201	21,972
2	Hydraulic Oil	76	1,664
3	Crude	11	1,267
4	Aviation Fuel	46	972
5	Gasoline	36	892

Top 5 Causes

	Cause	Count	Gallons
1	Leak, Other	60	10,982
2	Line Ruptured	71	2,758
3	Overturn/Capsize	3	1,315
4	Third Party Act	3	1,255
5	Corrosion	4	1,218

Top 5 Sources

	Source	Count	Gallons
1	Pipeline	9	10,082
2	Fishing	25	3,160
3	Industrial Vehicle	67	1,715
4	Home/Office/Business	31	1,633
5	Fuel Station	25	1,395

PLEASE NOTE. . . . This report is based on provisional spill data. Readers should be aware that minor discrepancies in the data may exist.

1998 Calendar

MEETINGS

October 16	HAZMAT workgroup meeting, Anchorage
October 20	Local Emergency Planning Committee Workshop, Ft. Richardson
October 21	State Emergency Response Commission, Ft. Richardson
October 28	ICS Workgroup meeting, Anchorage
October 30	Alaska Regional Response Team Meeting, Anchorage

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January 13	State Emergency Response Commission, Anchorage
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At a glance.....

July 1 - September 30, 1998

Spill Summary

Total Spills Reported (includes 10 Brine releases):	554
Total Gallons Released (oil):	28,180
Total Gallons Released (hazardous substances):	16,005

Oil Releases

Total Spills Reported:	466
Most Common Substance (201 spills):	diesel
Most Common Cause (71 spills):	line ruptured
Most Common Source (67 spills):	industrial vehicle
Largest Release (gallons) (diesel):	10,000

Hazardous Substance Releases (excluding brine)

Total Spills Reported:	78
Most Common Substance (7 spills):	propylene glycol
Most Common Cause (10 spills):	leak
Most Common Source (16 spills):	home/office/business
Largest Release (gallons) (propylene glycol)	5,000

SEND COMMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS TO:

Camille Stephens, 410 Willoughby Ave., Juneau, AK 99801, or email: cstephen@envircon.state.ak.us



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Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Department of Environmental Conservation
410 Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/dspar/perp/perphome.htm>
Phone: 907-465-5220
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