



Governor Parnell honors DEC spill responders with Denali Peak Performer Honorable Mention

John Kotula, Spill Prevention & Response, Valdez – Leadership Honorable Mention

John is an exemplary team-builder and leader. He has brought together a group of seven people with different backgrounds into an effective, valuable team. John leads by example and excellent communication. He is firm but respectful with employees as well as the regulated industry. John involves all staff as equal members of the team through clear and regular communication. It is obvious that he values his team, seeking input from each member. John analyzes and initiates improvements to the program and relationships with industry to better serve the needs of all. Finally, John is fair and accessible. He is a constant reminder of the importance of working together for success.

Tug Pathfinder Oil Spill Response Team - Customer Service Team Honorable Mention

Bob Mattson, Gary Folley, Larry Iwamoto, Scot Tiernan, John Engles, Young Ha, Neil Huddleston, Neil Vince Kelly, John Kotula, Sarah Moore, Steve Russell, Mark Sielaff, Rebecca Spiegel, Weld Royal, Camille Stephens

When the Tug Pathfinder hit Bligh Reef on the eve of Christmas Eve, this team went into action. With 123,000 gallons of fuel on board and a 5 foot hole at the keel, time was of the essence. This nomination is for the team of ADEC employees (mostly overtime ineligible) who addressed the mission of their division - to respond rapidly when a spill occurs to protect human health and the environment - and responded over the Christmas weekend and beyond. This dedicated group of people gave up holidays with family; some traveled to Valdez to assure that human health and the environment was protected by minimizing the amount spilled and the cleanup of oil that escaped. The good news is that the spill was held to 6,400 gallons and no oiled wildlife or shoreline impacts have been reported. The DEC team partnered with other Incident Command members to assure that even at Christmas, the mission was achieved.

See all of the Governor's Peak Performance winners and honorable mentions at:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/dop/denaliAwards2010/winners/>