



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program
SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

MP 33 Seward Hwy Vehicle Accident

SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 19239907202

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 03/18/2019 at 3:00 PM

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): N/A

INCIDENT LOCATION: MP 33 Seward Highway near Moose Pass

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 3/13/2019 at 2:45 PM

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The department received a call from the Alaska State Troopers around 4:00 PM on 3/13/2019 reporting an accident and spill at MP 33 of the Seward Highway, near Moose Pass. A semi-truck hauling a large excavator on a low-boy trailer with an excavator went off the road into Moose Creek as a result of the crash.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Up to 300 gallons of diesel from two 150-gallon saddle tanks and engine oils from the semi-truck spilled into the creek as a result of the accident.

CAUSE OF SPILL: Vehicle accident. The cause of the truck leaving the road and crashing is unknown.

SOURCE CONTROL: The semi-truck and excavator (with a capacity of 300 gallons of fuel and oil) were successfully removed from the creek on March 15th. The estimated 300 gallons of fuel and oil in the excavator did not spill while the excavator was in the creek or during salvage of the excavator from the creek.

RESPONSE ACTION: The accident investigation and weather conditions, blowing snow with 40 mph winds, prevented spill response crews from accessing the scene immediately following the accident. A worker with the nearby Trail Lakes Hatchery deployed sorbent boom at several locations in the creek. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) responders arrived from Soldotna on March 14th. ADEC responders placed containment boom near the equipment and absorbent boom in several more locations in the creek. ADEC opened the pollution response fund and hired National Response Corporation (NRC).

Vulcan Towing and Recovery (Vulcan) arrived on scene early on March 15th to begin salvage of the semi-truck and excavator. United States Forest Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game personnel were on scene to observe field activities. NRC and ADEC responders arrived before operations began to conduct cleanup operations and provide pollution mitigation in support of the salvage. The excavator was removed from the creek with no incidental releases. NRC and ADEC responders removed and replaced soiled absorbent boom in four locations on the creek. After salvage and boom tending were complete NRC worked with heavy equipment



operators to remove heavily contaminated snow and gravel. A total of 14 55-gallon drums of oily waste and contaminated soil were removed from the scene.

Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Trail Lakes Hatchery personnel have been observing the absorbent boom and site to report any significant changes to ADEC. ADEC personnel were on scene March 18th to remove and replace soiled boom and monitor conditions at the incident site.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: Moose Creek [AWC No. 244-30-10010-2225-3013] (MP33 to Upper Trail Lake) is a known spawning area for sockeye salmon, and likely spawning area for coho salmon. Both species likely have eggs in the gravel in the area impacted by the spill. Eggs may emerge from the gravel in the next few weeks (weather and temperature dependent). There are likely juvenile Coho, Chinook, and possibly Sockeye salmon in creek. The creek is a known rainbow trout spawning area, adults will likely move into the impacted area in the next few weeks and begin spawning in May. In early spring when invertebrates show up on surface waters, coho and trout will feed on the surface, making them more vulnerable to impacts from remaining diesel.

Upper Trail Lake [AWC No. 244-30-10010-2225-0020] is a spawning area for sockeye salmon, with eggs likely in the gravel. The lake supports rearing habitat for juvenile Coho, Chinook, and Sockeye salmon. The lake supports rainbow trout, lake trout, and Dolly Varden. As juvenile sockeye migrate downstream in Moose Creek into the lake, adult Dolly Varden and trout will be waiting to feed on them.

The nearby hatchery does not intake water from the creek or the lake.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: To mitigate impacts further downstream, ADEC responders will continue to monitor the incident site and conduct passive recovery in the creek and lake through breakup.

WEATHER: Currently rain 43° F; Forecast for the week upper 40's with rain and snow showers.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

State On-Scene Coordinator: Geoff Merrell, ADEC

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As the situation warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Geoff Merrell, State On-Scene Coordinator, ADEC (907) 269-7682.
Website: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/>



[3-15-2019 ABSORBENT AND CONTAINMENT BOOM IN MOOSE CREEK, PHOTO BY NRC PERSONNEL]



3-15-2019 BOOM IN MOOSE CREEK, PHOTO ADEC PERSONNEL

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:

Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed 3-15-2019, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.