



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



USCG
SECTOR ANCHORAGE





US EPA (REGION 10)
ALASKA OPERATIONS OFFICE


April 5, 2018

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

1. The Northwest Arctic Subarea Contingency Plan is the guideline for establishing operations in the event of a major response effort to an oil spill or hazardous material release. This volume supplements the *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases (Unified Plan)*.
2. Information contained herein will be disseminated to agencies and personnel involved in various response and cleanup activities.
3. The Northwest Arctic Subarea Contingency Plan is the result of a joint planning effort. Members of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Department of the Interior, and numerous other Federal, State, local, Native, and industry participants contributed to this document.
4. We solicit comments and recommendations to improve this plan. Please forward your comments to Ms. Laurie Silfven (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program, 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK 99501), or Mr. Nick Knowles (USEPA, Alaska Operations Office, 222 W 7th Ave., No. 19, Anchorage, AK 99513).


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NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

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UNIFIED PLAN & SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN DESCRIPTIONS

The Northwest Arctic Subarea Contingency Plan is a supplement to the *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil & Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases* (commonly referred to as the Unified Plan). The Unified and the Subarea Contingency Plans represent a coordinated and cooperative effort by government agencies and were written jointly by the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) requires the USCG and the USEPA to prepare oil spill response plans for the State of Alaska, which is designated as an entire planning region under Federal guidelines. Alaska statute requires the ADEC to prepare a state-wide master plan addressing oil and hazardous substance discharges. The Unified Plan meets these Federal (NCP and OPA 90) requirements for regional and area planning, as well as State planning requirements.

OPA 90 requires the development of Area Contingency Plans for the inland and coastal zones of each Federal region. For the Alaska region, there are three Coast Guard Captain of the Port zones and one inland zone. The three Captain of the Port zones are: 1) Southeast, which covers all of Southeast Alaska; 2) Prince William Sound, which covers the Prince William Sound area; and 3) Western Alaska, which includes the rest of coastal Alaska from Cook Inlet out to the Aleutians and north to the Beaufort Sea and the Canadian border. The inland zone is subdivided into two sectors: 1) the North Slope oil production area and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and 2) all other areas inland from the coastal zones.

Alaska statute divides the state into ten regions for oil and hazardous substance spill planning and preparedness. The USCG and the USEPA joined with the ADEC to use these ten regions for area planning instead of the Federal planning divisions since this would facilitate unified planning for the State of Alaska and prove more practical as well (for example, the huge COTP Western Alaska planning area is replaced by seven more manageable divisions). Because the State of Alaska is called a planning region under Federal planning guidelines and to avoid confusion with the other Federal term, area contingency plans, these ten subordinate planning regions of the State are called subareas in the context of the Unified Plan.

The Unified Plan contains information applicable to pollution response within the entire State of Alaska and meets the pollution response contingency planning requirements applicable to the Federal and State governments. The plan provides broad policy guidance and describes the strategy for a coordinated Federal, State and local response to a discharge, or substantial threat of discharge, of oil and/or a release of a hazardous substance within the boundaries of Alaska and its surrounding waters.

Under both Federal and State law, the responsible party for an oil or hazardous substance incident is required to report the incident and mount a response effort to contain and clean up the release. The Federal and State governments mandate response plans for oil tank vessels and facilities that have stringent spill response requirements. If the responsible party fails to respond adequately or if no responsible party can be identified, then the Federal and State governments will rely on the Unified Plan and the appropriate Subarea Contingency Plan for response protocols and guidance.

Whereas the Unified Plan contains general information for response efforts taking place anywhere in the State of Alaska, the Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) concentrates on issues and provisions specific to its particular subarea. The Northwest Arctic SCP focuses on the Northwest Arctic Borough and the Seward Peninsula region of the State. The boundaries of this subarea are described in the Background Section of this plan. The Northwest Arctic SCP provides information specific to the area, including emergency response phone numbers, available response equipment and other resources, specific response guidelines,

and information on hazardous substance presence and sensitive areas protection. Alaska State statute mandates a public review of all new plans, an annual departmental review of these plans, and another public review whenever the plans are significantly revised. The ADEC offers a public review of these plans for a period of 30 to 60 days during which verbal and written comments are accepted. During this comment period, public meetings may be held at locations appropriate for the plan being reviewed. The Federal government does not require public review for any of its plans, though the USCG and the USEPA, as part of the Alaska unified planning process, do cooperate with the State of Alaska and participate in the public review process.

Neither federal nor the State regulations codify a formal approval process for these plans. The Unified Plan and the SCPs are presented to the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission and the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) for review and comment. The Unified Plan approval process can be found in Annex D of the plan. For subarea contingency plans, the plan approval occurs with the signing of the plan's letter of promulgation by the three plan holders – the USCG, the USEPA and the State of Alaska.

RECORD OF CHANGES

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**National
Response
Center**

**Report Spills to the NRC at:
1-800-424-8802**

**or Via the NRC Online Reporting Tool at
<http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html>**

The National Response Center is the SOLE national point of contact for reporting Oil, Chemical, Radiological, Biological, and Etiological discharges into the environment anywhere in the United States and its territories.

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REPORT ALL

OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SPILLS

ALASKA LAW REQUIRES REPORTING OF ALL SPILLS

During normal business hours

contact the nearest DEC Area Response Team office:

Central Alaska	Anchorage	phone:	(907) 269-3063
		fax:	(907) 269-7648
Northern Alaska	Fairbanks	phone:	(907) 451-2121
		fax:	(907) 451-2362
Southeast Alaska	Juneau	phone:	(907) 465-5340
		fax:	(907) 465-2237

Outside normal business hours, call:

1-800-478-9300 (International 1-907-428-7200)



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response

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Discharge Notification and Reporting Requirements

AS 46.03.755 and 18 AAC 75 Article 3

Notification of a discharge must be made to the nearest Area Response Team during working hours:

Anchorage (907) 269-3063

(907) 269-7648 (FAX)

Fairbanks (907) 451-2121

(907) 451-2362 (FAX)

Juneau (907) 465-5340

(907) 465-2237 (FAX)

OR

to the 24-Hour Emergency Reporting Number during non-working hours:

1-800-478-9300 (International 1-907-428-7200)

Notification Requirements

Hazardous Substance Discharges

Any release of a hazardous substance must be reported as soon as the person has knowledge of the discharge.

Oil Discharges

■ TO WATER

- Any release of oil to water must be reported as soon as the person has knowledge of the discharge.

■ TO LAND

- Any release of oil in **excess of 55 gallons** must be reported as soon as the person has knowledge of the discharge.
- Any release of oil in **excess of 10 gallons, but 55 gallons or less**, must be reported within 48 hours after the person has knowledge of the discharge.
- A person in charge of a facility or operation shall maintain, and provide to the Department on a monthly basis, a written record of any discharge of oil **from 1 to 10 gallons**.

■ TO IMPERMEABLE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT AREAS

- Any release of oil **in excess of 55 gallons** must be reported within 48 hours after the person has knowledge of the discharge.

Special Requirements for Regulated Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities*

If your release detection system indicates a possible discharge, or if you notice unusual operating conditions that might indicate a release, you must notify the Storage Tank Program at the nearest DEC Office within 7 days:

Anchorage (907) 269-7886

(907) 269-7679

*Regulated UST facilities are defined at 18 AAC 78.005 and do not include heating oil tanks.

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