

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: *Empress of the North* Grounding **SITREP #:** 2

SPILL NUMBER: 07119913401 **LEDGER CODE:** 14233160

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: At approximately 12:35 AM on May 14, 2007, the vessel sent a radio report to the U.S. Coast Guard reporting the incident.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:30 PM, May 14, 2007.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 12:00 PM, May 15, 2007

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: A light sheen was observed in the immediate area of the grounding that may be due to the vessel. The vessel's crew reported there was approximately 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel oil on board the vessel at the time of the grounding. One empty fuel tank was breached during the grounding.

LOCATION: The vessel grounded on Hanus Reef, a charted and marked reef, near the intersection of Icy Strait and Chatham Strait (Southeast Alaska) about 25 air miles southwest of Juneau.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel struck Hanus Reef resulting in significant damage to the vessel's hull.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Majestic America Cruise Line or American West Steamboat Co.

RESPONSE ACTION: The *Empress of the North* arrived at the Alaska Marine Highway Dock in Auke Bay at approximately 10:00 AM. A salvage team was on scene to begin a survey of the damage to the vessel. No sheen was observed during the U.S. Coast Guard overflight as the vessel transited from Hanus Reef to Juneau. There is no evidence of oil discharge from the vessel at the Auke Bay Dock. Majestic America Cruise Lines has agreed to place oil containment boom around the vessel as a precautionary measure. Currently, the divers are surveying the vessel hull. Due to safety concerns, the boom will be deployed after the dive assessment is complete.

The *Empress of the North* is a double-bottomed vessel of less than 400 gross tons and therefore not regulated by the Department's non-tank vessel regulations, nor is it regulated by the Ocean Ranger Program.

The Alaska Marine Highway ferry *Columbia* arrived at the Auke Bay dock at approximately 11:30 AM with the passengers from the *Empress of the North*. The passengers were transported to Centennial Hall in Juneau by bus.

Majestic America Cruise Line has arranged for commercial and charter flights to Seattle, Washington for all passengers.

Correction: Sitrep #1 reported that the vessel floated free of the reef during the incoming tide. The Department has no information at this time how the vessel floated free of the reef.

SOURCE CONTROL: The Southeast Alaska Petroleum Resource Organization (SEAPRO) continues to standby at Auke Bay with the Oil Spill Response Vessel (OSRV) *Neka Bay* and one 249-barrel oil response barge.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Immediately after the incident, a light sheen was reported in the immediate area of the vessel and Hanus Reef and may have possibly been related to this incident. There have been no reports of impact to wildlife or the environment.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The vessel owners are currently evaluating plans for repair of the vessel with salvors. All passengers from the stricken vessel are to be flown to Seattle, WA today.

WEATHER: Southeasterly winds 20 knots, becoming southerly at 10 knots in the afternoon. Seas four feet in the morning, then subsiding in the afternoon. Rain likely, decreasing in the afternoon, highs around 51 degrees.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Drew Green, Cruise Line Agency of Alaska
F.O.S.C.: CPT Mark Guillory, USCG Sector Juneau
S.O.S.C.: Scot Tiernan, ADEC
Field S.O.S.C.:

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scot W. Tiernan at 907-465-5378
Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDIOI, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate Dist. A	Senator Bert Stedman	E-mail	senator_bert_stedman@legis.state.ak.us	465-3873	465-3922
Senate Dist. B	Senator Kim Elton	Fax		465-4947	465-2108
Senate Dist. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax		465-3473	456-2827
House Dist. 2	Representative Peggy Wilson	Fax		465-3824	465-3175
House Dist. 3	Representative Beth Kerttula	Fax		465-4766	465-4748
House Dist. 4	Representative Andrea Doll	Fax		465-3744	465-2273
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thomas	Fax		465-3732	465-2652
USCG (MSD Ketchikan)	LT Jason Boyer	Email	jason.a.boyer@uscg.mil	225-4496	225-4499
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Chris Williammee	Email	Christopher.J.Williammee@uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
USDA Forest Service – Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5895
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Tom Schumacher	Email	Tom_schumacher@fishgame.state.ak.us	465-4346	
ADNR Petersburg	Jim Cariello	Email	Jim_cariello@dnr.state.ak.us	772-5224	772-9336
Angoon Community Association	President Edward Gamble, Sr.	Fax		788-3411	788-3412
City Of Hoonah	Mayor Windy Skaflestad	Fax		945-3663	945-3445
City Of Gustavus	Mayor Sandi Marchbanks	Fax		607-2451	607-2451
Organized Village of Kake	President Heinrich Kadake	Fax		785-6471	785-4902
Petersburg Indian Association	President Michael Lopez	Fax		772-3636	772-2991
City and Borough of Juneau	Manager Rod Swope	E-mail	City_clerk@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-5240	586-5385
City of Kake	Mayor Henrich Kadake	E-mail	violette_a@hotmail.com	785-3804	785-4815
City of Petersburg	Manager Bruce Jones	E-mail	clerk@ci.petersburg.ak.us	772-4519	772-3759
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	E-mail	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
City and Borough of Juneau	Mike Patterson - Emergency Response Coordinator	E-mail	michael_patterson@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-0221	586-5385



Photo courtesy of the United States Coast Guard