

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Taku Gardens, Fort Wainwright **SITREP #:** 1

RECKEY: 200531X916101

LEDGER CODE: 14942251

LOCATION: Fort Wainwright Army Base, Fairbanks, Alaska. The area is south of Neely Rd. and west of 10th Ave.

TIME/DATE OF DISCOVERY: On Monday, July 31, 2006 at 1 PM

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 12:00 PM, August 7, 2006. This situation report is being distributed to disseminate information on the status of discovery of contamination and munitions, and the safety measures taken.

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF CONTAMINATION: Two World War II/Korean War-era bombs with intact burster charges (which ignite the filler) were unearthed during test pit excavation on the construction site of a 54-acre, \$55 million housing project known as Taku Gardens. Munitions scrap and other metal debris had been found in the area of the unoccupied subdivision, and test excavations were being conducted to assess the nature and extent of potential ordnance and chemical contamination. Experts from the Army's 716th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team determined that both bombs were M-47 series, 100 lb. chemical bombs. One was empty. The other was partially crushed and contains an unidentified liquid. This bomb is not leaking or in a condition to break open.

CAUSE OF SPILL: Several areas at this site were used for historical disposal of munitions-related materials and drums that might contain contaminants such as fuels, solvents, PCBs, or other hazardous wastes.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): U.S. Army Garrison Alaska.

RESPONSE ACTIONS: DEC's project manager participates regularly in meetings with the Army and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and receives frequent updates from the Army. The area is fenced and guarded, and the Army has been cooperative in taking appropriate measures to protect the health and safety of construction workers and nearby residents.

The 716th EOD team and the Alaska Air National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team determined that the bomb does not pose a threat to areas outside of the Taku Gardens construction site. They determined that in the highly unlikely event that the bomb should detonate, none of its contents or fragments would reach beyond the construction site. According to the EOD experts, the bomb is secure in its present location and configuration, and it can safely await additional determination of contents and disposal options. The Army's Technical Escort Team (munitions experts) will arrive on Monday, August 7, to further examine and dispose of the bomb. The air is being continuously tested, and no munitions-related chemicals have been detected.

In August 2005, high concentrations of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) were discovered during the excavation of a building foundation. DEC's project manager has been actively involved in continued site investigation, which has revealed the presence of other contamination including ordnance, petroleum and hazardous substances, as well as large amounts of metal debris.

SOURCE CONTROL: The area is fenced and guarded, access is restricted, and qualified munitions experts are guarding the bomb.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Confirmed soil contamination includes PCBs, petroleum and ordnance. Impacts to groundwater quality at the construction site are under investigation. Fort Wainwright drinking water is regularly and extensively monitored, and it meets drinking water standards.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: DEC will continue to work with the Army and the EPA to ensure the safety of base residents and visitors. Following disposal of the bombs, the status and approaches taken during the currently suspended site investigation will be reevaluated.

PROJECT TEAM

An interagency group directs the investigation. Members are:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Federal Facilities Section: Sharon Richmond, Project Manager. 907-451-2158, Sharon_Richmond@dec.state.ak.us
Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Operations Office: Jacques Gusmano, Superfund Project Manager, (907) 271-1271, Gusmano.Jacques@epamail.epa.gov
US Army Garrison Alaska, Directorate of Public Works: Therese Deardorff, Project Manager, 907-384-2716, Therese.Deardorff@us.army.mil
US Army Garrison Alaska, Directorate of Public Works: Cristal Fosbrook, Chief, Environmental Section, 907-384-3044, Cristal.Fosbrook@us.army.mil

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

ADEC: Jennifer Roberts (907) 269-7553

US EPA: Jacques Gusmano (907) 271-1271

US Army Alaska: Bob Hall at (907) 384-2546 or (907) 748-7459.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

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

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DMVA/DES	Terry Smith	fax		428-7035	428-7009
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