

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Barge W. J. Carbon Fire

SITREP #: 1 and Final

SPILL NUMBER: Not assigned.

LEDGER CODE: N/A

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 2:15 P.M. The barge, carrying scrap metal and abandoned cars, was reported on fire at approximately 2:30 P.M. on June 20, 2004.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:30 P.M. June 21, 2004

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: This is the final report.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Reports from the Coast Guard Cutter Anacapa indicated that no sheen from the barge was observed during this incident. During the response, scrape metal from the barge fell into marine waters of Lynn Canal.

LOCATION: Chilkoot Inlet, four (4) miles south of Haines, AK

CAUSE OF SPILL: This was a potential spill only. This report is being generated because of delays and impacts to vessel traffic within the area resulting from the fire and response actions. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Coast Guard.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): The Coast Guard identified the owners of the barge as Puget Sound Freight Lines.

RESPONSE ACTION: The fire was fought by personnel from the Coast Guard Cutter Anacapa and a small passenger-carrying catamaran, the Fairweather Express, with assistance from eight volunteer firefighters from the City of Haines. Additional assistance was provided by the tugboat Le Chevel Rouge from Skagway and a TEMSCO helicopter from Juneau also responded to the fire.

The Alaska Marine Highway System ferries, the Taku and the Matanuska, were temporarily diverted to the scene of the fire to provide support but were later released to continue their voyages. During the firefighting efforts various pieces of scrap metal and car bodies were reported to have been lost over the side of the barge.

Due to potential for the release of toxic materials in the dense smoke, the Coast Guard Captain of the Port established a 500-yard safety zone around the vessel at approximately 6:00 P.M. Cruise ships were prohibited from entering the area and three large and one small cruise ship were forced to delay their departure from Skagway. The cruise ships were allowed to sail at approximately 7:30 P.M.

The fire continued throughout the night, continuing to burn until around noon on June 21, 2004. The barge will be taken to the Chilkoot Lumber Company dock for an inspection of the damage.

SOURCE CONTROL: None

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Marine waters of Lynn Canal. No discharge of petroleum oils sighted. There were no reports of impacts to the shoreline or wildlife. Smoke from the fire impacted vessel traffic within the 500 yard safety zone.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Juneau will conduct an investigation into the cause of the fire.

WEATHER: Clear and sunny, temperature 85 with light winds

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter Anacapa
F.O.S.C.: CDR John Sifling (USCG)
S.O.S.C.: Bob Mattson (ADEC)
Field S.O.S.C.: N/A

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Scot W. Tiernan 465-5378

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
ADF&G	Mark Fink	Email	Sent via Spill Report Group	267-2338	267-2464
ADNR	Doug Sanvik	Email	Sent via Spill Report Group	465-3400	465-3513
USCG (MSO Juneau)	CDR John Sifling	Email	jsifling@cgalaska.uscg.mil	463-2453	463-2445
USCG (MSO Juneau)	Lt. Gary Koehler	Email	gkoehler@cgalaska.uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
EPA	Matt Carr	Email	Sent via Spill Report Group	271-3616	271-3424
Other	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate Dist.C	Georgianna Lincoln	Fax		465-3732	465-2652
House Dist. 5	Albert Kookesh	Fax		465-4766	465-3473
City and Borough of Haines	Keith Bettridge	Fax		766-2231	766-3179
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Fax	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117