

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: F/V Steelhead FREON22 Release **SITREP #:** 1 and Final

SPILL NUMBER: 04229917901 **LEDGER CODE:** Not requested

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: Exact time of the release is unknown. The Valdez Fire Department was notified of the release at 8:15 P.M., June 27, 2004. ADEC was notified by the Valdez Police Department at 9:00 P.M.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT : 4:00 P.M., June 28, 2004

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: 20 pounds Chlorodifluoromethane commonly known as FREON22

LOCATION: Valdez City Dock, Valdez, Alaska

CAUSE OF SPILL: Based upon a preliminary investigation the cause of the spill appears to be a broken fitting that released the FREON22 into the foc'sle.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Greg Meyer, Cordova, Alaska

RESPONSE ACTION: The 69 foot, 45 gross ton fishing tender Steelhead was experiencing difficulty maintaining a cold temperature in their FREON22 refrigeration system and suspected a FREON22 problem. Apparently, after arriving at the City Dock in Valdez, one crewmember entered the foc'sle to repair the problem and was overcome. The master of the vessel looking for this crewmember also entered the space and was also overcome and incapacitated. A deckhand found the master barely conscious and the crewmember unconscious and was also overcome by the FREON22 gas in the confined space but was able to get out and call for help. The unconscious crewmember was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital and the master is still in the hospital. The third crewmember and a worker from the Nautilus Foods processing plant were treated and released.

The Valdez Fire Department/HAZMAT Team, Valdez Police Dept. and the Emergency Responder with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation responded to this incident. The Valdez HAZMAT Team, in self-contained breathing apparatus entered the vessel and removed the victims. An exclusion zone was set up and the vessel was ventilated until oxygen levels returned to a safe level. The vessel and the case were then handed over to the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office (MSO) Valdez for further investigation.

The Coast Guard's investigation found that the vessels stern seals were leaking and there was a significant amount of oily water in the bilge. A response contractor was called in to pump out the bilge and 2,700 gallons of oily water was recovered. The seals were repaired and the investigation is to continue.

SOURCE CONTROL: The refrigeration system contained approximately 20 pounds of FREON22 that was completely released into the foc'sle and was ventilated to the atmosphere.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: FREON22 was vented to the atmosphere and the oily bilge water was removed from the vessel into suitable containers.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The U.S. Coast Guard and Federal OSHA continue to investigate this incident.

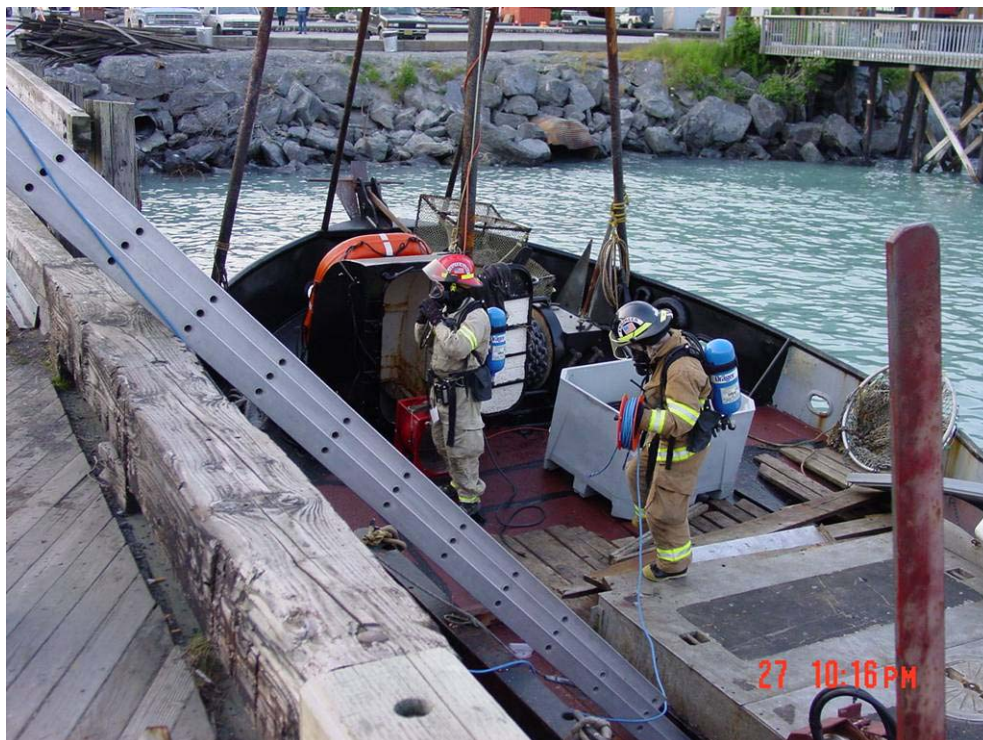
WEATHER: Warm and overcast, with light to fairly strong breeze blowing out of the west.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Gary Shoop, Valdez Fire Department
 F.O.S.C. : LCDR Robert Bailey, USCG – MSO Valdez (907) 835-7211
 S.O.S.C. : Gary Folley. ADEC
 Field S.O.S.C.: John Engles, ADEC - Valdez

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: John W. Engles (907) 835-4698

AGENCY	NAME	Sent Via		Telephone	Facsimile
USCG-MSO/Valdez	CDR. Mark Swanson	Fax		835-7210	835-7207
US EPA	Carl Lautenberger	Fax		257-1342	271-3424
USDA Forest Service	Ken Vaughan Deputy Director of Engineering and Aviation Management	Email/fax	KV Vaughan@fs.fed.us	586-8789	586-7555
USDA Forest Service	Gerry Xavier Engineering Staff Officer, Chugach National Forest	Email/fax	GXavier@fs.fed.us	743-9544	743-9476
OTHER					
PWS/RCAC	John Devens	Fax		277-7222	277-4523
CIRCAC	Mike Munger	Fax/Email	munger@circac.org	283-7222	283-6102
Mayor of Cordova	Mayor's Office	Fax		424-6200	424-6000
Mayor of Valdez	Mayor's Office	Fax		835-4313	835-2992
Session/Interim					
Senate F/ Fairbanks	Gene Therriault	Fax	Juneau 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	465-4797 465-4797	465-3884 465-3884
House 35/Valdez	John Harris	Fax	Juneau 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	465-4859 465-4859	465-3799 465-3799
State of Alaska – OSHA	Patrick Wheat	E-mail	Pat_wheat@labor.state.ak.us	269-4953	269-4950
Anchorage Hazmat	Tom Wells	FAX		267-5066	279-2106
Fairbanks Hazmat	Tim Biggane	FAX		459-1219	459-1499
103rd Civil Support Team (Alaska National Guard)	Emma Thyen	EMAIL	Emma Thyen @ak.ngb.army.mil	428-6665	428-6625
Valdez Hazmat	Donnie Blackburn	FAX		835-4560	835-3412



Valdez Hazmat Team members prepare to ventilate the foc'scle of the F/V Steelhead. ADEC photo