

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Drill Site 14 Crude Oil Spill

SITREP #: 5

SPILL NUMBER: 05399910201

LEDGER CODE: 14102060

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The release was discovered on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 at approximately 2:30 AM by BP Exploration- Alaska, Inc. (BPXA) personnel. The spill was reported to ADEC by BPXA via the Alaska State troopers at 3:40 AM on April 12, 2005

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 9:00 AM, on April 18, 2005

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: BPXA reports that approximately 1.4 million standard cubic feet of natural gas and an estimated 10 – 30 barrels (420 – 1260 gallons) of crude oil were released as a mist. The mist settled onto the manifold building, pipes, tanks, and snow at Drill Site 14 (DS-14).

LOCATION: The release occurred at Drill Site 14, which is in the Greater Prudhoe Bay oil production field on the North Slope of Alaska.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The source of the spill is a leak in an artificial lift line that transports pressurized natural gas to Drill Site 14 for injection. A weld in the pipe appears to have failed. The exact cause of the weld failure is yet to be determined.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): BPXA

RESPONSE ACTION: An ADEC responder is onsite in Prudhoe Bay to participate in the Incident Management Team (IMT) as well as to oversee cleanup and disposal activities.

Oil recovery efforts were slowed on Friday afternoon as winds began to rise, and the oiled snow began to migrate. Response workers immediately began taking steps to prevent spreading. Three lines of snow fence were erected across the spill area, shallow trenches were created downwind to trap fugitive oiled snow particles, and a Fire Department engine was used to experimentally spray 11,000 gallons of water as a fog over the spill area to create a hard cap of ice on the surface of the snow. The ice capping was very successful, and clean up of the tundra was able to recommence shortly after protective measures were taken.

Staffing of responders has not changed, but the IMT decided to stand down Friday evening and the response is now being run as a project from the field. Oiled snow is now being shoveled into windrows or piles because the ice cap makes sweeping impossible. Hand shoveled material is removed via bobcats and snow machines with bucket-like trailers. All contaminated snow is being hauled to the Grind & Inject (G&I) facility for disposal.

As of 6:00 PM on April 16, 2005, 10.6 acres of spilled area have been cleaned. On April 15 the investigation team gave their permission for responders to begin cleaning Area 1, which is the release area up to the west side of the building and is the most heavily oiled area on the site. Safety concerns about working in and on top of the pipes arose. It was not until Sunday, April 17 that responders were able to start working in that area. At present most of the responders are still working westward into Area 4.

A plan to clean off the buildings, tanks, pipelines and other structures is being designed.

SOURCE CONTROL: The pipe was closed off by valves and then blinded at both ends.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: The majority of the oil sprayed on the manifold building, surrounding structures, and on the gravel pad area. Most of the snow covered tundra was lightly misted.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: BPXA will continue to remove recoverable oil from the snow-covered tundra and from the release area on the east side of the building.

Plans to clean up structures and pipes on the pad are being finalized. Current crews will deploy protective measures to keep oil from the structures and pipes from re-contaminating cleaned areas. It is anticipated that clean-up of pipes tanks and other structures will begin soon. The clean-up of the building itself will most likely be postponed until warmer weather improves access.

WEATHER: Overcast with haze, temperature -10°F, with winds from the west at 9 MPH resulting in a wind chill of -28°F.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Roger Reddin, BPXA
 F.O.S.C. : Carl Lautenberger, USEPA
 S.O.S.C. : Ed Meggert, ADEC
 Field S.O.S.C.: Toivo Luick, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Meggert (907) 451-2124.

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:

http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/response/sum_fy05/050412301/050412301_index.htm

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

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

STATE AGENCY	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFO	TELEPHONE	FAX
ADNR	Leon Lynch/ Gary Schultz/ Larry Byrne	Fax		451-2724/ 451-2732	451-2751 or 659-2965
ADNR (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459-7279	456-3091
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Mary Lundquist	Fax		451- 2811/451- 2914	451-2985
OTHER	NAME	Sent Via	Session/Interim	Telephone	Facsimile
USEPA	Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-3616	271-3424
Legislator (House 40)	Reggie Joule (D)	Fax	Kotzebue	465-4833 or (800) 782- 4833	465-4586
Legislator (Senate T)	Donnie Olson (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3707	465-4821
North Slope Borough		Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
Senator Murkowski's Washington DC Office		Fax	North Slope only	(202) 224- 6665	(202) 224- 5301
Senator Murkowski's Office in Fairbanks		Fax	North Slope only	456-0233	451-7146