

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: NPS Radioactive Containers

SITREP #: 3 and final

SPILL NUMBER: 05389927201

LEDGER CODE: Not Requested

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The containers were suspected of being radioactive at approximately 4:00 PM on September 29, 2005. The National Park Service contacted the ADEC as soon as the presence of radioactivity was suspected by NPS maintenance personnel.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 11:00 AM October 5, 2005.

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Thirty-nine (39) empty containers were discovered within the crawl space of the house. The containers were made of lead and some were labeled as having once contained radioactive isotopes.

LOCATION: The containers were found in the crawlspace below the house at Tract A, Lot 3, Block 11 in Kotzebue.

CAUSE OF SPILL: It appears that a previous resident of the house stored the containers in the crawl space under the house and abandoned them. The source of the containers is being investigated.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): The National Park Service (NPS) is the property owner.

RESPONSE ACTION: The chief of the Radiological Health Program for the State of Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Clyde Pearce and an NPS representative entered the building and did extensive testing on October 4, 2005. Seven (7) more containers were found bringing the total to 39. During the assessment the team found no radiation present above natural background levels. The team assessed the containers, the house and the area around the outside of the house.

NPS ceased work on the house and secured the building from access when the containers were found. While the building remains locked and secured from access until it can be demolished, the threat of radioactive exposure is not a concern.

SOURCE CONTROL: Radioactive exposure is not an issue.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: None.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The chief of the Radiological Health Program for the DHSS, Clyde Pearce is working on a disposal plan for the lead containers.

WEATHER: Fair, 32°F, winds out of the north at 9 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Jan Maslen, National Park Service
S.O.S.C. : Ed Meggert, ADEC
Field S.O.S.C.: Toivo Luick, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom De Ruyter, ADEC, Fairbanks, (907) 451-2145.

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.

Agency Organization	Name	Sent via	Additional Info	Telephone	FAX
ADNR	Leon Lynch/ Gary Schultz	Fax		451-2724/ 451-2732	451-2751
ADNR (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459-7279	456-3091
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Fax		459-7363	456-2259
USCG	Cpt. Mark DeVries	Fax		271-6700/6708	271-6751
USEPA	Matt Carr/ Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-5083 or 257-1342	271-3424
DHSS (Commissioner)	Joel Gilbertson	Fax		465-1614	465-3068
DHSS (Radiological Health)	Clyde Pearce	Fax		334-2107	334-2161
DOI	Doug Mutter/Pamela Bergmann	Fax		(907) 271-5011	271-4102
Legislature					
Governor's Office (Fairbanks)	Cheri Solie, Director/ Melissa Stepovich-Cook, Angelina Burney, Assist	Fax		451-2920	451-2858
Legislator (Senate T)	Donnie Olson (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3707	465-4821
Legislator (House 40)	Reggie Joule (D)	Fax	Kotzebue	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586
Other Agencies:					
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Pete Wallace	Fax		452-8251 x 3433	459-3989
North West Arctic Borough	Roswell Schaeffer, Sr.	Fax	Mayor	442-2500	442-2930