

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** North Pole Transfer Facility Fire      **SITREP #:** 1 and Final

**SPILL NUMBER:** 07309911901      **LEDGER CODE:** Not Requested

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** 2:00 P.M., April 29, 2007. The hazmat release was reported to ADEC at 9:21 P. M., April 29 after the Fairbanks North Star Borough Hazmat Team analyzed the materials.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 3:00 P.M., April 30, 2007.

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

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** Unknown type and amount. The fire is believed to have been caused by a reaction of alkaline and acid materials.

**LOCATION:** Fairbanks North Star Borough Refuse Transfer Facility in North Pole, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** Mixing of unknown materials during the transfer of refuse into a garbage truck

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB)

**RESPONSE ACTION:** A FNSB garbage truck was collecting refuse from bins at the North Pole Transfer Facility to haul to the FNSB Solid Waste Facility. After emptying a bin, the driver of the truck compacted the refuse and an explosion occurred within the bed of the garbage truck. As a result of the explosion, both the truck and its contents caught on fire. Six other smaller explosions occurred within the bed of the truck while the driver was in the process of dumping the load from the bed of the truck onto a gravel pad at the transfer facility. The driver of the truck was not hurt.

The North Pole Fire Department (NPFDD) responded to the incident shortly after 2:00 P. M. and extinguished the truck and the pile of dumped garbage. The dumped pile of garbage re-ignited and at around 3:00 P.M., the NPFDD again responded to a call of a fire at the same refuse pile. During the firefighting activities, water used to control the fire reacted with the materials on fire as evidenced by increased flames and boiling water. The runoff water was contained in a depression next to the gravel pad. The firefighters then used foam to extinguish the fire.

At 6:00 P.M. the FNSB Hazmat Team was called to the scene. The team tested the runoff water which had a pH of 13-14. At 9:21 P.M., the FNSB Hazmat Team reported the incident to ADEC. The FNSB Hazmat Team analyzed the materials to be Nickel Acetate, Sodium Carbonate, Donex (Red), and Sugar. ADEC dispatched one responder to the scene to assist the Hazmat Team. At this time, the North Pole Transfer Site has been closed until the contaminated materials have been removed from the site.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** High pH firefighting runoff water and refuse materials were contained on the gravel pad at the Transfer Facility.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** The gravel pad at the North Pole Transfer Facility.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The FNSB will be removing all contaminated materials from the site, and the materials will be brought to a proper facility for disposal. After the removal of these materials the North Pole Transfer Facility will be reopened. ADEC and the FNSB are investigating who dumped the materials into the transfer bin.

**WEATHER:** Partly Cloudy, temperature 45 F, calm winds.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Patrick Cox FNSB  
 S.O.S.C. : Ed Meggert, ADEC  
 F.O.S.C. Matt Carr  
 Field S.O.S.C.: Walt Sandel, ADEC

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Walt Sandel, ADEC, Fairbanks, (907) 451-2126.

**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
Alaska State Troopers	Fairbanks	Fax		451-5100 or (800) 478-9300	451-5165
ADNR	Leon Lynch/ Gary Schultz/ Larry Byrne	Fax		451-2724/ 451-2732	459-7303 or 659-2965
ADNR (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459- 7279	456-3091
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Fax		459-7363	456-2259
EPA	Matt Carr/Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-5083 or 257- 1342	271-3424
<b>HAZMAT Incidents</b>					
Fairbanks North Star Borough-HAZMAT	Dave Tyler/ Barry Jennings	Fax		450-6585	459-1119
<b>Legislature</b>					
Governor's Office (Fairbanks)	Palin/Parnell	Fax		451-2920	451-2858
Legislator (Senate D)	Joe Thomas (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-2327	465-5241
Legislator (Senate E)	Gary Wilken (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3709	465-4714
Legislator (Senate F)	Gene Therriault (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-4797 or (800) 860-4797	465-3884
Legislator (House 7)	Michael "Mike" Kelly (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4976 or (800) 465-4976	465-3883
Legislator (House 8)	David Guttenberg(D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4457 or (800) 928-4457	465-3519
Legislator (House 9)	Scott Kawasaki (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3466 or (866) 465-3466	465-2937
Legislator (House 10)	Jay Ramras (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3004 or (877) 465-3004	465-2070
Legislator (House 11)	John Coghill, Jr. (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-3719 or (877) 465-3719	465-3258
<b>Local Government:</b>					
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Jim Whitaker	Fax	Mayor	459-1304	459-1102