

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: *Empress of the North* Grounding **SITREP #:** 3

SPILL NUMBER: 07119913401 **LEDGER CODE:** 14233160

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: At approximately 12:35 AM on May 14, 2007, the vessel sent a radio report to the U.S. Coast Guard reporting the incident.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 12:00 PM, May 15, 2007.

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: A light sheen was observed in the immediate area of the grounding that may be due to the vessel. The vessel's crew reported approximately 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel oil on board the vessel at the time of the grounding. One empty fuel tank was breached during the grounding.

LOCATION: The vessel grounded on Hanus Reef, a charted and marked reef, near the intersection of Icy Strait and Chatham Strait (Southeast Alaska) about 25 air miles southwest of Juneau.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel struck Hanus Reef resulting in significant damage to the vessel's hull. The cause of the vessel grounding is under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and U.S. Coast Guard.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Majestic America Cruise Line or American West Steamboat Co.

RESPONSE ACTION: The *Empress of the North* arrived at the Alaska Marine Highway Dock in Auke Bay at approximately 10:00 AM on May 14, 2007. The vessel remains at the Alaska Marine Highway System dock. Responders completed booming of the vessel on the evening of May 14.

A salvage team conducted an initial inspection of the vessel's hull for damage on May 14th. Preliminary results of the survey, provided by the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Juneau, indicate that the first four voids on the starboard side are flooded. In this context, a void is the space created by structural members of a vessel's double-hulled bottom. The forepeak is reported to have a 1 ½ foot by 8 foot breach. Number 1 starboard void was reported to have a 4 foot by 3-inch hole. Divers were unable to video tape the damage found yesterday due to poor visibility in the water. Divers will attempt to video the damaged hull today.

The Unified Command stood down yesterday afternoon (May 14). The damage assessment and salvage is being managed by the cruise ship company and salvors with oversight by the U.S. Coast Guard and ADEC. The NTSB team has arrived in Juneau and initiated the investigation into the grounding. Majestic America Cruise Lines corporate representatives are on scene in Juneau and providing assistance.

SOURCE CONTROL: The Southeast Alaska Petroleum Resource Organization (SEAPRO) boomed the vessel and continues to standby at Auke Bay with the Oil Spill Response Vessel (OSRV) *Neka Bay*, one 249-barrel oil response barge, and additional spill response equipment. No sheen has been observed coming from the vessel.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Marine Waters near Hanus Reef. There have been no reports of impact to wildlife.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The NTSB investigation will continue its investigation. Divers will attempt to conduct a video survey of the damage to the vessels hull.

WEATHER: Southeasterly winds 15 knots. Seas remain calm. Rain likely late this evening. Highs expected to reach 60 degrees.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Drew Green, Cruise Line Agency of Alaska
F.O.S.C.: CPT Mark Guillory, USCG Sector Juneau
S.O.S.C.: Scot Tiernan, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scot W. Tiernan at 907-465-5378
Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/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.

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate Dist. A	Senator Bert Stedman	E-mail	senator_bert_stedman@legis.state.ak.us	465-3873	465-3922
Senate Dist. B	Senator Kim Elton	Fax		465-4947	465-2108
Senate Dist. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax		465-3473	456-2827
House Dist. 2	Representative Peggy Wilson	Fax		465-3824	465-3175
House Dist. 3	Representative Beth Kerttula	Fax		465-4766	465-4748
House Dist. 4	Representative Andrea Doll	Fax		465-3744	465-2273
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thomas	Fax		465-3732	465-2652
USCG (MSD Ketchikan)	LT Jason Boyer	Email	jason.a.boyer@uscg.mil	225-4496	225-4499
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Chris Williammee	Email	Christopher.J.Williammee@uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
USDA Forest Service – Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5895
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Alaska Marine Highway	Mary Siroky	Email	mary_siroky@dot.state.ak.us	465-4772	
Angoon Community Association	President Edward Gamble, Sr.	Fax		788-3411	788-3412
City Of Hoonah	Mayor Windy Skaflestad	Fax		945-3663	945-3445
City Of Gustavus	Mayor Sandi Marchbanks	Fax		607-2451	607-2451
Organized Village of Kake	President Heinrich Kadake	Fax		785-6471	785-4902
Petersburg Indian Association	President Michael Lopez	Fax		772-3636	772-2991
City and Borough of Juneau	Manager Rod Swope	E-mail	City_clerk@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-5240	586-5385
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City and Borough of Juneau	Mike Patterson - Emergency Response Coordinator	E-mail	michael_patterson@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-0221	586-5385