

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Valdez Petro Star Refinery Fire

SITREP #: 3 and Final

SPILL NUMBER: 08229936301

LEDGER CODE: 14123560

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 10:45 P.M. December 28, 2008

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 12:00 P.M. January 6, 2009

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: This is the final SITREP for this incident.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: During the initial site assessment on December 29th, it was estimated that about 200 gallons of Alaska North Slope (ANS) crude oil was released as a result of the fire at the refinery. In addition, approximately 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of water used in the firefighting effort was slightly contaminated with oil. Based on subsequent site assessments, it has been determined that an estimated 1000 gallons of propylene glycol was also released. Nearly all of this propylene glycol is locked up in the ice that has been scraped up and stockpiled on site.

LOCATION: Valdez Petro Star Refinery, 2.5 Mile Dayville Road, Valdez, AK

CAUSE OF SPILL: A fire in the refractory tower at the refinery. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Petro Star, Inc.

RESPONSE ACTION: The Alaska Chadux Corp. response crew has continued to clean up crude oil, glycol, and oily firewater ice outside the process unit of the refinery. An excavator and a loader were utilized to scrape up the firewater ice that was contaminated with crude oil, glycol, and aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF). A large snow melter was brought in and is being used to melt the contaminated ice so the water can be decanted to collect the oil. So far, approximately 30 cubic yards of snow/ice have been processed. The decanted water is being hauled to the Valdez wastewater plant for final treatment. Access to the process unit is being restricted until the fire investigation is completed. Once accessed is allowed, refinery workers will begin cleaning up in that area, assisted by a Chadux crew for handling of the oily waste.

SOURCE CONTROL: The fire was extinguished by a combined Petro Star Fire Team, Valdez Fire Dept., and Alyeska Marine Terminal Fire Team. The fire was extinguished at 12:40 A.M. on December 29, 2008. The entire process area was isolated from energy sources and a work plan is being developed to safely remove all of the remaining hydrocarbons in the system. When that is completed workers can begin dismantling the plant and preparing it for rebuilding.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Very strong winds continue to scour the site and downwind snow areas. A location was found where firewater appeared to have escaped the perimeter dike at a drain. However testing indicated the oil content was minimal and within regulatory limits.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Alaska Chadux will remain on site to assist the refinery crews with handling of oily waste. The snow/ice melting operation will continue until all of the firewater ice has been processed. After the process unit is released for access, cleanup will continue in that area. Most of the emergency work is completed and the rest of the work is moving into a project phase.

WEATHER: Bitterly cold weather continues with 20 to 40 mph winds and gusts to 60 mph. Temperature remains in the single digits over night and up into the low teens during the day.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Mike Simms, Petro Star
 F.O.S.C. : CDR Darrel Verfaillie, USCG
 S.O.S.C. : Gary Folley
 Field S.O.S.C.: John W. Engles

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: John W. Engles at 835-4698, or Gary Folley at 262-5210, x234.

AGENCY	NAME	Sent Via		Telephone	Facsimile
USCG-MSU/Valdez	CDR. Valdez-office	Fax		835-7210	835-7207
US EPA	Matt Carr	Fax		271-5083	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					
PWSRCAC	John Devens	Fax		834-5000	835-5926
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		835-8850	835-4893
			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	Anchorage 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	269-0129 465-4859	269-0128 465-3799



The snow/ice melting operation with the refinery in the background. ADEC created panorama