

# This is only a drill.



## **UNIFIED COMMAND**

Tesoro Alaska Company – U.S. Coast Guard – State of Alaska

### NEWS RELEASE

Date: September 24, 2008

Time: 1 p.m.

Contact: Unified Command  
Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response Inc. (CISPRI)  
Mile 26.5 Kenai Spur Highway  
(907) 776-7402

Release: No. 4

Regarding: Gore Point Spill Response Efforts

- Response efforts are still under way to respond to this morning's Gore Point spill. The Unified Command is utilizing all available regional resources to contain and clean up the spill as quickly and safely as possible. This including the equipment from the Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response (CISPRI) and Ship Escort & Response Vessel System (SERVS). CISPRI's oil spill response vessel, the Perseverance, and other oil spill response vessels are enroute to the scene and expected to arrive at 6 p.m. today.
- Two cargo tanks were impacted. Some of the oil has been released, but discharge appears to have stopped. Oil remains in the compromised tanks.
- One of the Seabulk Arctic crew members has sustained injuries and this individual is receiving proper medical attention. This individual has been treated onboard and has been medi-vaced for further care. This injury was not associated with the initial incident.
- Public safety is also a priority in the response efforts. The U.S. Coast has established a safety zone extending from Port Dick to Port Graham 10 miles offshore.

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- Protecting wildlife and shorelines are top priorities for the Unified Command, which is considering all resources to mitigate the effects of the release, including the use of dispersants as a way to protect migrating water fowl, marine mammals and reduce impact on shorelines.
- There is a separate, ongoing investigation into the cause of the incident. This is being conducted by the FBI and local law enforcement officials. The Unified Command's focus is the response efforts; the U.S. Coast Guard is cooperating with the FBI on the investigation.
- The Unified Command is also requesting the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to form a no-fly zone so that the response efforts are not affected.
- As part of the Unified Command, Tesoro will continue our clean up efforts to the satisfaction of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation and stakeholders.
- Individuals who are interested in volunteering for the response efforts may call the Beacon Training Center at (907) 283-3054 to register for a 24-hour HAZMAT course.
- Vessel owners who are interested in providing their vessels in the response efforts may contact their area harbor master, who will be referred to a CISPRI vessel administrator. For vessel owners in Seward, call Harbor Master Becky Dunn at (907) 224-3138. Homer vessel owners may call Harbor Master Lea Shields at (907) 235-3160.

### Background:

- Response efforts are continuing off Gore Point as a result of a 6 a.m. incident involving a high-speed vessel collision with the Seabulk Arctic, an oil tanker carrying Alaskan North Slope crude oil from the Alyeska Terminal in Prince William Sound, located in Valdez, Alaska, to the Kenai Pipe Line Company Dock in Nikiski, Alaska.
- According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, based on wind and sea current conditions, the trajectory of the oil is projected to head in a southwest direction and potentially impact the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula.
- The Alaska State Fish & Game Department has requested that the public not handle oiled wildlife or debris. For public safety, wildlife should only be handled by authorized agency personnel. Any sightings of oiled wildlife should be referred to the Alaska Fish & Game Department at (907) 714-2476.
- A business claims phone line has been established for those that may have been impacted by today's incident. The number is 1 (907) 770-8937. Callers should use claims number 91-12345.

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- The vessel, carrying Alaskan North Slope crude oil, was headed for the Kenai Pipe Line Company Dock in Nikiski, Alaska. At the time of the collision, the tanker was near Port Dick.
- The total amount of crude oil loaded on the vessel was 318,616 barrels or 13,381,872 gallons. Two of the cargo tanks were compromised by the collision. The total potential release to the environment from these two tanks is 36,134 barrels or 1,517,628 gallons of Alaskan North Slope crude oil.
- The vessel is in a stable position and listing 5 degrees starboard. It is about nine miles south of Gore Point. Efforts to contain and clean up the oil are currently under way.
- A joint information center (JIC), consisting of representatives from Tesoro Alaska Company, U.S. Coast Guard and the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, has been formed to provide updates of the response efforts to the media. The JIC phone number is (808) 776-7402.
- Updates on the incident and fact sheets on Alaskan North Slope will be posted on the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Web site at [www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp)

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