

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Tug *Pathfinder* Grounding

SITREP #: 4

SPILL NUMBER: 09229935701

LEDGER CODE: 14282260

TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT: The grounding of the tug *Pathfinder* was reported to the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) Vessel Traffic System in Prince William Sound at 6:15 PM on December 23, 2009. USCG reported the grounding to ADEC at 7:52 PM on December 23, 2009.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:00 PM on December 26, 2009

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 3:00 PM on December 27, 2009

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The amount spilled is currently unknown. The vessel had approximately 123,000 gallons of diesel fuel on board at the time of the grounding. Three of the tug's diesel tanks were breached: one on the port side (1P) and two on the centerline (2C and 3C). Tank 1P did not contain any fuel, and Tanks 2C and 3C contained 10,000 and 23,540 gallons of diesel fuel, respectively, at the time of grounding.

LOCATION: The grounding occurred on Bligh Reef, Prince William Sound, Alaska (60° 50.39' N, 146° 52.94' W).

CAUSE OF SPILL: The 136-foot tug had completed an ice survey and was headed back to port at the time of the grounding. The grounding caused extensive damage to the hull, including tearing a 4- to 5-foot hole at the keel. The cause of the grounding is unknown at this time and is being investigated by USCG and ADEC.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Crowley Maritime Corporation (Crowley), Seattle, WA

RESPONSE ACTIONS: After the grounding, the tug's crew moved the *Pathfinder* to Busby Island to assess the condition and secure the vessel.

Divers conducted a visual survey of the tug and reported major structural damage to the underside of the tug. The response vessel *Valdez Star* responded to the scene and began recovery of spilled fuel.

On the morning of December 24, 2009, the *Pathfinder* was secured with containment boom around the tug. Fuel recovery operations continued throughout December 24 with response vessels recovering small amounts of scattered sheen that had escaped containment.

Fuel removal operation was completed on December 25. Approximately 36,000 gallons of a diesel fuel and water mix was removed from two damaged tanks, 2C and 3C.

Two salvage experts with Titan Salvage arrived in Valdez at 10:30 AM on December 25 and began an assessment of the *Pathfinder* that night focusing on vessel stability and fuel tank condition.

At approximately 2:00 PM today, the *Pathfinder* began transit to Valdez on tow and is estimated to arrive in Valdez at 10:00 PM tonight.

Two ADEC responders are at the Incident Command Post in Valdez and another ADEC responder is on-site with the *Pathfinder*.

SOURCE CONTROL: The pressure of the sea water under the vessel's hull is preventing any remaining fuel from escaping from the damaged tanks. Approximately 36,000 gallons of a diesel fuel and water mix

has been removed from the two damaged tanks.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Marine waters of Prince William Sound. No oiled wildlife observed and no shoreline impacts have occurred.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Develop plans for a complete vessel inspection when the *Pathfinder* arrives in Valdez. Remaining fuels will be removed and a salvage plan will be developed. Continue on site spill recovery operations and over-flights as required.

WEATHER: At 7:00 AM today, seas at the tug's location were reported to be calm. Forecast for today and tomorrow: Rain, temperatures from the mid to upper 30s F. Northeast winds to 15 knots, seas to 3 feet.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL

Incident Commander: Walt Teague (Crowley)
F.O.S.C: Erin Williams, Commander (USCG)
S.O.S.C: Gary Folley (ADEC)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Folley, ADEC (907) 262-5210 ext. 234

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum_fy10/091223201/091223201_index.htm

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The sitrep was also distributed to the various agency staff listed on the standard distribution list. The receiving agencies listed in the standard distribution list includes: Governor's office, Senator Begich's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFO	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE
USCG-MSU Valdez	CDR Valdez office	Fax		835-7210	835-7207
US EPA	Carl Lautenberger	Fax		257-1342	271-3424
USDA Forest Service	Ken Vaughan	Email/Fax	kvaughan@fs.fed.us	586-8789	586-7555
PWS/RCAC		Fax		277-7222	277-4523
CIRCAC	Mike Munger	Email/Fax	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		835-4313	835-2992
Native Village of Eyak	Bruce Cain	Fax		424-7738	424-7739
House 12/Valdez	John Harris	Fax	Juneau	465-4859	465-3799
Senate F/Fairbanks	John B. Coghill Jr.	Fax	Juneau	465-4797	465-3258
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