

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Tug *Pathfinder* Grounding

SITREP #: 5

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 27, 2009

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

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: A total of approximately 49,000 gallons of a diesel fuel and water mix was removed from the *Pathfinder's* damaged tanks prior to departing Busby Island for Valdez.

The tug *Pathfinder* was secured at the Petro Star dock in Valdez at approximately 1:15 AM on December 27, 2009. The diesel fuel remaining in the fuel tanks below the deck will be offloaded today. A safe fuel transfer rate will be determined and strictly applied to ensure vessel stability.

The response vessels for this incident have been released and response equipment is currently being decontaminated.

A Solid Waste plan has been approved by the Unified Command and implemented. All waste will be tracked until it is properly disposed of. All the fluids recovered from the *Pathfinder* and from the on water response and recovery operation will be measured by a third party consultant.

An over-flight was conducted at approximately 9:15 AM today and followed the vessel's transit path from Busby Island to Valdez, to ensure that there was no additional fuel release during the transit. The participants of the over-flight reported no visible sheening, wildlife impacts or shoreline impacts in the operational area.

SOURCE CONTROL: The tug *Pathfinder* was safely docked and secured at the Petro Star dock in Valdez. The diesel fuel and water mix from the damaged tanks were transferred and the remaining fuel located below the deck will be off loaded today.

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

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The final spill volume will be determined by calculating the vessel's original fuel volume, the quantity of fluid removed from the *Pathfinder*, and the volume recovered from the on-water response operation.

Two ADEC responders are due to depart Valdez in the morning. The ADEC responder from the Valdez office will continue to monitor the situation.

The Incident Management Team will be deactivated 6:00 PM tonight.

WEATHER: Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Patchy fog. Highs in the low to mid 30°F. Light winds. Tonight: Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows in the upper 20°F to lower 30°F. Light winds.

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 |
| Governor's Office | Ward Hinger | Email | ward.hinger@alaska.gov | | |