

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Tug *Pathfinder* Grounding

SITREP #: 6

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. The USCG reported the grounding to ADEC at 7:52 PM on December 23, 2009.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 1:00 PM on December 30, 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 the USCG and ADEC.

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

RESPONSE ACTIONS: 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 undamaged fuel tanks below the deck was offloaded Monday December 28 to tanks on shore.

On December 29, the *Pathfinder* was towed to the Valdez Container Terminal (VCT) and surrounded with containment boom. Remaining petroleum products contained in bilges, lube oil tanks, etc. are being pumped off. The three damaged tanks will be inspected again for any fuels and pumped off as necessary

The 20 vessels that responded to this incident have been released and the response equipment used has decontaminated and restocked.

SOURCE CONTROL: The tug *Pathfinder* is currently at the Valdez Container Terminal surrounded by containment boom and has a 24-hour security watch on board.

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

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: All the fluids recovered from the *Pathfinder* and from on water response will be measured by a third party consultant.

The final status of the tug *Pathfinder* will be determined after additional surveys and damage assessments have been completed. ADEC continues to monitor the activity and will assist the USCG in the investigation of the incident.

WEATHER: Mostly sunny for the rest of the week, temperatures mid 20s during the day, light winds.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL

Incident Commander: Walt Tague (Crowley)
F.O.S.C: Darryl Verfaillie, 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, ADNRR, 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. Coghil Jr.	Fax	Juneau	465-4797	465-3258
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