

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

SITUATION REPORT
As of 10:00 AM on April 23, 2010

INCIDENT NAME: Princess Kathleen

SITREP #: 15

SPILL NUMBER: 10119904701

LEDGER CODE: 14284160

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The *S/S Princess Kathleen* grounded and sank off Point Lena on September 7, 1952.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 2:00 PM on April 23, 2010

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 2:00 PM on April 27, 2010

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The total volume of number 6 bunker oil onboard the vessel at the time of sinking is unknown. The volume of bunker oil identified in 10 of the ship's tanks is estimated to be between 14,000 and 34,000 gallons. Four additional tanks remain to be surveyed. The volume of other oils that remain on the ship is currently unknown.

LOCATION: Point Lena, Favorite Channel, north of Juneau, Alaska.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel grounded on Point Lena and suffered damage to the forward-most section of the bow. As the tide came in, the vessel flooded from the stern and slid off the point. The vessel now sits at an angle on its port side at a depth ranging from 52 feet at the bow to 134 feet at the stern. Recent increases in the frequency of sheen being reported in the area were investigated and traced to the *Princess Kathleen*, possibly indicating a change in the vessel's condition.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Undetermined

RESPONSE ACTION: While Global Diving and Salvage (Global) was installing hot tapping equipment on the starboard wing tanks, they discovered an additional layer of heavy oil in the number 2 and 4 starboard wing tanks. It is suggested that over time the oil has separated allowing the lighter ends of the oil to float to the top and the heavier ends to settle towards the bottom of the tank. Samples of the oil were taken and sent to the lab at Louisiana State University for analysis.

On April 20, 2010, after removing heavy concentrations of pooled oil from the spaces and exposing the piping, Global conducted surveys of the fuel tank vent piping system to determine the layout and condition of the piping in preparation for permanently patching them. The patching procedure will be the removal of the vent pipes at the fuel tank and installing plugs in the openings to prevent oil from escaping the tanks during the fuel removal operation. This specialized cutting equipment, discussed in Sitrep 14, arrived on scene on April 22nd and operations to patch the vent piping commenced today.

In preparation for removal of silt from the top of the port wing tanks, Global entered the main deck cargo space and removed items that posed an entanglement hazard to divers. Silt removal began on April 22nd but operations were hampered by the large amount of debris located in this area of the vessel. All silt that is removed is being pumped to a tank on the Foss Maritime Company (Foss) barge and will be disposed of at the completion of the project.

Shoreline cleanup assessment teams conducted surveys of the shorelines near the wreck site for oil on April 21st and 22nd. The teams surveyed the shoreline from Point Lena to Tee Harbor and found no oil. The surveys have been documented and will be used as a baseline for future shoreline monitoring.

Operations at the dive site were put on hold this morning as the winds and waves exceeded the safety margins established by the Unified Command.

SOURCE CONTROL: None at this time. Global has installed temporary patches over the exposed starboard portholes to prevent oil trapped within the vessel from escaping.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There have been no reports of impacts to wildlife or the shoreline. SEAPRO has begun conducting active bird hazing in the area as a preventative measure. The Unified Command and NOAA have developed a communication plan for when marine mammals are in the vicinity. The *Princess Kathleen* is of historic significance and is listed as a historic shipwreck by the State of Alaska Office of History and Archeology.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Foss, Global, and Southeast Alaska Lightering continue to move equipment to the deck barge *Red Cedar* for the second phase of fuel recovery.

The necessary tools for cutting and patching the fuel tank vent piping system have arrived in Juneau and operations to permanently patch the leaking vent pipes will continue as soon as possible. Heating and pumping of the tanks to remove oil from the vessel cannot start until the leaking tank piping is patched.

Additional dive crew members for Global have been mobilized to support the upcoming 24 hour operations and are expected to arrive in Juneau over the weekend.

WEATHER: Today: North wind 15 knots increasing to 20 knots late. Seas 3 feet building to 4 feet. Tomorrow: North wind 10 knots increasing to 20 knots late. Seas 2 feet or less.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

F.O.S.C. : Capt. Melissa Bert, USCG
S.O.S.C. : Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC, (907) 465-5378 or JIC officers at 463-2065.

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing on the Unified Command website: www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/princesskathleen

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The situation report 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, ADNDR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS.

Agency/ Stakeholders	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate Dist. B	Senator Dennis Egan	Fax	session	465-4947	465-2108
House Dist. 3	Representative Beth Kerttula	Fax	session	465-4766	465-4748
House Dist. 4	Representative Cathy Munoz	Fax	session	465-3744	465-2273
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Capt. Melissa Bert	Email	Melissa.bert@uscg.mil	463-2836	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Latarsha McQueen	Email	Latarsha.s.mcqueen@uscg.mil	463-2835	463-2445
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Matt Jones	Email	Matt.n.jones@uscg.mil	463-2452	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Kurt Clarke	Email	Kurt.a.clarke@uscg.mil	463-2475	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	MSTC James Highfill	Email	James.L.Highfill@uscg.mil	463-2461	

Agency/ Stakeholders	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
USDA Forest Service - Juneau Ranger District	District Ranger Pete Griffin	Email	pgriffin@fs.fed.us	789-6244	586-8808
USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5896
USDA Forest Service - Admiralty Island National Monument	District Ranger Marti Marshall	Email	mmmarshall01@fs.fed.us	789-6202	
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADNR	Doug Sanvik	Email	Doug.Sanvik@alaska.gov		
ADF&G	Joe Hitselberger	Email	Joe.Hitselberger@alaska.gov	465-4346	465-4759
Douglas Indian Association	Doug Dobyms, Environmental Planner	Email	DougDobyms@yahoo.com	364-2916	364-2917
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