

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Glenn Highway Propane Truck Rollover

SITREP #: 2

SPILL NUMBER: 10239925601

LEDGER CODE: 14304160

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: This incident is a potential release resulting from a tractor-trailer rollover; no release has occurred. The incident occurred at approximately 9:30 AM on Monday, September 13, 2010. The Palmer Fire Department requested ADEC assistance in responding to the incident at 10:30 AM. Crowley Marine Services (Crowley) reported the incident to ADEC at 10:48 AM.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 10:30 AM on September 15, 2010

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Potential release of liquefied propane gas. Responders have determined that the trailer tank, which contains approximately 9,000 gallons (roughly 35,000 pounds) of liquefied gas, is not leaking.

LOCATION: Near milepost 84.5 of the Glenn Highway, approximately one half mile west of Long Lake, about 24 miles east of Sutton and 80 miles northeast of Anchorage.

CAUSE OF SPILL: A Crowley semi truck towing a propane tank trailer traveling east on the Glenn Highway hit a guard rail and rolled. The truck remained pinned to the guard rail, but the 10,000-gallon capacity trailer separated from it, coming to rest approximately 440 feet down a steep, wooded slope. The cause of the incident has not been determined. Crowley reported that the driver was not injured.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Crowley Marine Services, Inc.

RESPONSE ACTION: In two teleconferences on September 14, 2010, Crowley presented to ADEC a 4-step plan to recover the stranded tank. During the day, Crowley consulted with technical advisers, procured equipment, planned logistics, and developed a site safety plan in preparation to implement the plan.

The plan's first step consists of attaching straps to the tank and pulling them taut with a winch on a D8 Caterpillar bulldozer at the highway shoulder to maintain tank stability during the second step, offloading the propane. The liquid propane will be pumped to a tank truck stationed on the highway using either the tank's on-board pump or a compressor located on the highway shoulder. Crowley estimates the on-board pump would be able to remove only about 6,500 of the 9,000 gallons of propane on board, the remainder of which would be burned with four to six portable heaters. The burn could be expected to last two days. A compressor may be able to remove more propane than the on-board pump, but Crowley is still working with engineers to determine which method is optimal. Once the pump/burn process is complete, any residual gas will be evacuated from the tank to maximize safety for the next step, lifting the tank to the road. Using lines affixed to the tank, two 90-ton winch trucks will haul the 20,000-pound tank up the slope to the highway, a process expected to take 6 to 8 hours. This step may require a highway closure, which would be scheduled so as to minimize impacts on highway users. The final step will be transporting the tank to Palmer on a low-boy tractor-trailer.

Crowley reported at yesterday's afternoon teleconference that a contractor had been hired to provide the bulldozer and that he was inspecting the incident site. A company in Anchorage was also fabricating the slings and cables necessary to stabilize and lift the tank.

SOURCE CONTROL: No leak has been detected.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: None at this time. No residences have been identified in the vicinity of the accident site. Long Lake is the nearest public use site other than the Glenn Highway. Should a release occur, vapors from liquefied gas are initially heavier than air and will spread along the ground to areas below the wreck site before dissipating.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Crowley will continue to develop the recovery plan today for ADEC review and approval. ADEC will review progress in a teleconference sometime later today. ADEC plans to have a responder at the site when recovery work begins.

For the safety of the public and responders, lane restrictions and/or temporary closure of the Glenn Highway will be required at various points in the recovery process. Crowley reports that the tank is stable in its current position, so plan implementation will be scheduled to minimize inconvenience for highways users.

WEATHER: Today – partly cloudy with patchy fog, becoming sunny, high in the 60°s F, light wind. Tonight – clear, becoming partly cloudy with patchy fog, low in the 40°s F, light wind. Tomorrow – patchy morning fog, mostly sunny, high in the 60°s F, light wind.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Walt Tague (Crowley Marine Services)
F.O.S.C.: n/a
S.O.S.C.: Gary Folley (ADEC)
Field S.O.S.C.: Mark Sielaff (ADEC)

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

Photographs and other spill information are available at: www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm

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, ADNR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER	NAME	Sent Via		Telephone	Facsimile
US EPA	Matt Carr	Fax		271-3616	271-6340
Mat-Su Borough	Borough Office	Fax		373-8800	376-0799
			Session/Interim		
House 14/Greater Wasilla	Wes Keller	Fax	Wasilla (5/16 - 1/09) / Juneau (1/10 - 5/15)	373-1842 / 465-2186	373-4729 / 465-3818
House 15/Willow	Mark Neuman	Fax	Willow (5/16 - 1/09) / Juneau (1/10 - 5/15)	376-2679 / 465-2679	373-4745 / 465-4822
Senate H/Palmer	Charlie Huggins	Fax	Wasilla (5/16 - 1/09) / Juneau (1/10 - 5/15)	376-4866 / 465-3878	373-4724 / 465-3265
Senate G/Mat-Su	Linda Menard	Fax	Mat-Su (5/16 - 1/09) / Juneau (1/10 - 5/15)	376-3370 / 465-6600	376-3157 / 465-3805

Stranded propane trailer viewed from the Glenn Highway September 13, 2010



Photo courtesy of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities