

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 #: 3

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 Petroleum Distribution (Crowley) reported the incident to ADEC at 10:48 AM.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:00 PM on September 16, 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 Petroleum Distribution, Inc. (a subsidiary of Crowley Marine Services, Inc.)

RESPONSE ACTION: Following discussions with representatives of equipment manufacturers and other industry experts, Crowley modified its tank recovery plan on September 15, 2010. Rather than pumping the tank's liquid propane cargo to tanker trucks, Crowley proposes to consume it with high-capacity portable heaters. It was determined that pumping the liquid uphill to the highway with the tank's on-board pump would lead to excessive pressure in the pump, risking its failure or activation of its relief valve and a release of propane to the environment. Alternative pumping equipment is not readily available, and in any case transfer of liquid propane is riskier than transfer of vapor, which is what would occur using the heaters. A hose will be run from the tank to a manifold at the highway shoulder that will feed eight to twelve 420,000 BTU portable heaters set up there (which will not have open flames). The liquid will vaporize as it decompresses and flows to the heaters, a process familiar to anyone who has used a gas barbecue grill. The heater option eliminates the liquid transfer and associated tank trucks on the highway, minimizes the need for personnel to work at the stranded tank, and decreases equipment complexity and failure risk and thus was judged the safest for responders and the public.

ADEC approved the revised plan at a teleconference on the afternoon of September 15, 2010.

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. Temporary highway closure or lane restrictions are likely to be necessary for certain operations, such as moving heavy equipment on or off of the site.

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: According to the recovery plan's schedule, highway flaggers and equipment will begin arriving at the incident site this evening at 6:00 PM. Tomorrow morning, the stabilization cables will be rigged between the tank and bulldozer and the propane hose and heaters will be installed. Crowley expects to start the heaters around noon tomorrow. Consuming the entire cargo is expected to last nine days (more than 200 hours of burn time will be required at projected flow rates). Once the heater operation is complete and all residual gas has been evacuated from the tank (estimated date September 27) the bulldozer will haul the tank up to the highway using the previously-installed cables. The tank will then be loaded on a trailer for transport to Palmer, where it will undergo a damage assessment before being repaired or scrapped.

An ADEC responder will be at the incident site tomorrow, and Crowley will provide ADEC regular updates during the remainder of the recovery effort.

WEATHER: Today – mostly sunny, highs in the 60's F, light winds. Tonight – clear, becoming mostly cloudy with areas of fog, low in the 30's to 40's F, light wind. Tomorrow – patchy morning fog, becoming 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: Mark Sielaff, ADEC, (907) 269-7532

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

Motorists are advised to call 511 or check 511.alaska.gov for road advisories.

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, ADNRR, 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