

Incident Name: Pump Station 1 Booster Pump Piping Incident

Source: Joint Information Center

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Web site: www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1

FACT SHEET NUMBER: 7

Jan. 14, 2011, at 10:00a.m.

(New information underlined)

- The Unified Command's primary goal is to safely return the pipeline to full service while protecting people and the environment. The Unified Command is comprised of federal, state and Alyeska representatives.
- There is no known harm to the environment or wildlife due to this incident.

Current status:

- The Trans Alaska Pipeline System is scheduled to shut down for installation of a 24-inch diameter bypass pipe at Pump Station 1 tonight, Jan. 14. The shutdown is planned to last 36 hours. These times are tentative and may change.
- One minor injury has been reported. On Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m., a driver at Pump Station 4 injured his head while checking the brakes on a trailer. He received first aid treatment from onsite medics and he has resumed work. The safety of responders, the public and the environment remains the top priority of the Unified Command.
- The average rate of oil flow through the pipe for the last 24 hours was 370,000 barrels per day.
- The total recovery estimate from the leak site in the Pump Station 1 booster pump building basement is about 257 barrels of oil, or 10,800 gallons. The recovery rate is steady at approximately 2 gallons per minute.
- Both cleaning devices in the pipeline, called PIGS, have arrived at their destinations at Pump Station 8 and the Valdez terminal.
- Oil storage tanks at Prudhoe Bay will hold incoming oil during the shutdown. The oil in those tanks is currently being released into the pipeline to allow for more capacity during the shutdown.
- No oil has been discovered outside the building.
- The drain field below the piping where the leak occurred has three vertical corrugated metal pipes acting as drain-field sumps that are used to observe and collect liquid from the drain field. Consistent monitoring shows no evidence of oil below the gravel pad. The vertical pipes will be monitored hourly during the interim operations period.
- There are more than 550 people responding to the incident, including more than 335 people at Pump Station 1.
 - Specialized teams are working around the clock on the response's primary objectives:
 - Execute the interim startup plan
 - Continue to recover oil from and clean up the booster pump building
 - Determine whether oil escaped into the ground
 - Isolate and bypass the compromised booster pump piping section
 - Continue to prepare for both a standard and a cold restart of the TAPS line

Weather at Pump Station 1:

<http://pafg.arh.noaa.gov/wmofcst.php?wmo=FPAK51PAFG&type=public#AKZ203>.

For background on the incident, including restart of the pipeline: dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1.

Note: All times are Alaska Standard Time.

The Unified Command consists of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

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