

**Incident Name:** Pump Station 1 Booster Pump Piping Incident  
**Source:** Joint Information Center  
**Contact:** 907-450-5857  
**Website:** [dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1)

## **Trans Alaska Pipeline System reopens under close monitoring**

Jan. 17, 2011, 10:53 a.m.

FAIRBANKS, Alaska – The Trans Alaska Pipeline System resumed operations at 10:18 a.m. today after crews at Pump Station 1 successfully installed a 157-foot bypass pipeline.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, the pipeline operator, initially shut down TAPS the morning of Jan. 8 after discovering crude oil in the booster pump building basement at Pump Station 1 at Prudhoe Bay, about 500 miles north of Fairbanks. The leak source appears to be a below-ground pipe encased in concrete.

The pipeline temporarily restarted Jan. 11 while Alyeska employees and contractors prepared bypass piping. Alyeska shut down TAPS again about midnight on Saturday, Jan. 15 so installation of the bypass piping could begin.

Currently Alyeska and contract employees, joined by state and federal regulators, are closely monitoring the restarted line.

During the shutdown, oil producers on the North Slope were asked to reduce production to 24 percent and then 16 percent of normal. Earlier today they scaled back further, to 12 percent. All crude oil was routed to two tanks at the pump station.

After the leak was detected Jan. 8, responders installed an 800-gallon containment vault and parked vacuum trucks on-site to remove oil from the vault. The total recovery estimate from Pump Station 1 is about 317 barrels of oil, or 13,326 gallons. Officials will investigate the source of the leak. There is no known harm to wildlife or the environment due to this incident.

As bypass installation proceeded, more than 600 people assisted with the response, including Alyeska employees, contractors, and state and federal regulators. A 24-hour operations center is staffed in Fairbanks and crews along the pipeline worked around-the-clock to move TAPS toward a safe restart.

For additional information, including previously released fact sheets, press releases and photographs, go to the Unified Command website at [dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1](http://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.