



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

***SITUATION REPORT***

**CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED**

## **Galena Flooding Event 2013**

**SITREP # 5**

**SPILL #:** 13309914702

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 5:00 p.m. July 19, 2013

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Multiple locations within the city of Galena were contaminated during the spring 2013 flooding event. Galena is located on the Yukon River, approximately 270 air miles west of Fairbanks.

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The spills are the result of flooding that began in Galena on May 27, 2013.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** ADEC identified the following potential sources of contamination: drums containing used motor oil, dislodged heating oil and fuel tanks, electrical transformers, batteries, automobiles, propane cylinders, and containers of paint or other miscellaneous hazardous substances. The quantity of contaminants released is unknown.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** An ice jam developed on the Yukon River during spring melting, flooding the city. Floodwaters dislodged and damaged fuel tanks and other containers of hazardous materials.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** More than 3,800 containers containing hazardous liquids, ranging in size from 55-gallon drums to aerosol cans, have been brought to a secure collection area by cleanup crews and Galena residents. These hazardous items include diesel, gasoline, used oil, kerosene, glycol, fuel additives, grease, paint, degreaser, and other unknown liquids. Potentially hazardous solid wastes, such as refrigerators, freezers, electronic devices, batteries, and fire extinguishers are also being brought to the collection area. Responders continue work to identify additional potential sources of contamination.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** On July 18, ADEC and Emerald personnel began final survey to locate potentially hazardous flood debris on city, non-profit tribal, school-district, and state owned land within 15 miles of Galena. Any hazardous debris found during the survey will be collected and transported to the temporary staging area. GPS data will be collected from these sites.

More than 800 drums containing hazardous liquids have been collected to date and brought to the accumulation area. Equipment to separate oil from water arrived in Galena on July 18. The system for separating oil and water will include six interconnected components: a 300 gallon intermediate bulk container for simple phase separation, two oil-water separators, and three granular activated carbon (GAC) systems. A temporary containment will also be constructed to collect the discharge water from the GAC system so it can be visually inspected for sheen. Oil absorbent boom will be placed in the containment area to capture any residual hydrocarbons.



On July 18, Industrial Service Company completed draining Freon from refrigerators and freezers collected or brought to the accumulation area.

Emerald personnel have prepared ten pallets of electronic waste, collected and brought to accumulation area, for transportation out of Galena by barge.

Approximately 65 electrical transformers, both pole and pad mounted, potentially contaminated with PCBs were identified during field surveys. To date, 60 pole mounted transformers have been collected, wrapped and transported to the hazmat staging area. Five pad mounted transformers will be collected at a later time. Shannon & Wilson finished collecting analytical samples from 65 transformers for PCB contamination. Samples have been sent to a laboratory of analysis. The flood deposited 18 pole mounted transformers into the city sewage lagoon. The city's sewage lagoon will not return to service until the level of PCB contamination has been determined and a cleanup completed, if necessary.

The flooding moved two city power plant tanks from their foundation. As part of their contract, Emerald removed the residual fuel from the tanks and completed cleanup in preparation for the tank integrity inspection, which the city is required to have done before the tanks can be placed back into service.

Three ADEC responders and nine field staff from Emerald Alaska Inc. are currently in Galena. The city is providing qualified local laborers for response support to work with Emerald.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Petroleum soil contamination has been identified in some public areas.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** ADEC will continue to monitor the emergency response and work with Emerald to develop plans.

**WEATHER (FROM NOAA.GOV):** **Today:** Rain and areas of fog; highs in 60°F; southwest winds to 10 mph. **Tonight:** Rain tapering to showers overnight; lows in 50°F; southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. **Saturday:** Cloudy and scattered rain showers; highs in 60°F; southwest winds to 10 mph.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Bryan Fisher, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC

Field SOSC: Bob Fultz, ADEC

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom DeRuyter, ADEC (907) 451-2145

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy13/130607301/130607301\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy13/130607301/130607301_index.htm)



*Emerald personnel removing transformer from the city's sewage lagoon, July 7, 2013. (Photo/ADEC)*

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** Please refer to the first sitrep distributed June 7, 2013 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first sitrep can be found in the **Additional Information** box above.