



**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 # 6 and Final**

**SPILL #:** 13309914702

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 1:30 p.m. July 14, 2014

**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 5,000 containers containing hazardous liquids, ranging in size from 55-gallon drums to aerosol cans, were 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 were brought to the collection area.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Emerald Alaska transported all hazardous debris collected during the 2013 cleanup out of Galena by plane and barge in the fall of 2013. Sixty-five electrical transformers were disposed of at an approved landfill after processing at a facility in Anchorage. The city sewage lagoon, from which 18 transformers were removed, was returned to service after the level of PCB contamination was determined to be below cleanup levels.

During 2013, ADEC responders identified three flood-caused releases of home heating oil from tanks at private residences. The 2013 cleanup, however, was limited to city, non-profit tribal, school district, and state owned land. In August of 2013, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) amended the scope of the cleanup to include the three identified private properties. On June 20, 2014, ADEC completed work with Emerald contract personnel to evaluate these spill sites and remove contaminated soil where necessary.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** No continuing impacts from flood-related spills of petroleum or other hazardous materials have been reported to ADEC.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** ADEC has completed the cleanup of hazardous debris and contaminated soil that was assigned by DHS&EM.

**WEATHER:** n/a

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Bryan Fisher, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management  
SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** This is the final report.

**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)

**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.