



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



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

## **Shishmaref Chukchi Sea Sheen**

**SITREP # 4**

**SPILL #:** 14389913501

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 10:30 a.m. December 23, 2014

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** The responsible party is unknown at this time.

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Northern coast of Sarichef Island, near the community of Shishmaref.

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** On June 4, 2014 a sheen on the nearshore icepack with a gasoline odor was reported to ADEC. A sheen was once again noticed by the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) and reported to ADEC on December 15, 2014 at 1:10 p.m. VPSO noted gasoline odor near the area where sheen was discovered.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The type and amount of product spilled is currently unknown.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The cause of the release is unknown.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Source control has not been established since the release source is unknown.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** A Unified Command was established on June 5, 2014 for a similar incident, but the case was closed due to completion of response operations. A Unified Command has again been established in response to this incident. The Unified Command is made up of federal, state and local agencies.

Following weather delays ADEC, Coast Guard, and Emerald personnel landed in Shishmaref on December 20, 2014. ADEC and USCG representatives met with the President of the Native Village of Shishmaref, Shishmaref City Mayor, and a Shishmaref Environmental Program representative to discuss the sheen event and potential sources.

The water in the nearshore had frozen to a depth that was safe to walk on. The area containing oily contamination was determined to be approximately 30' by 40'. Removal of contaminated material and collection of samples was conducted by chipping out the area and collecting it in oily waste bags. Absorbents were used in cases where recoverable petroleum products reached seawater.

A metal detector was used to search for potential buried drums or tanks along the shoreline; none were detected. Emerald Alaska removed contaminated ice from the site by chipping.

A total of 30 oily waste bags of contaminated ice and absorbents were recovered between December 20 and 21. Cleanup activities are complete at this time.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** An unknown petroleum product is visible on nearshore ice as well as under the ice. At the time of this report there have been no reports of impacted wildlife.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Absorbents will be disposed of using a smart ash burner. Contaminated ice will be placed into 55 gallon drums and be covered until warmer weather. When material in the drums melts absorbents will be used to recover product and be disposed of accordingly. There is an on-going investigation to determine the source of the oil release.

ADEC will continue to monitor response actions and work as part of the Unified Command to determine the source of the pollution and work towards remediation.

**WEATHER:** Tonight: Clear skies with a chance of flurries tonight; lows 30°F; east winds to 4 mph.  
Tomorrow: Overcast; highs 35°F; north northwest winds to 14 mph.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC  
FOSC: Capt. Paul Mehler, U.S. Coast Guard  
LOSC: Barnett Eningowuk, Alaska State Troopers VPSO  
Field SOSC: Jessica Starsman, ADEC

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ashley Adamczak, ADEC (907) 451-2124

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy14/140604301/140604301\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy14/140604301/140604301_index.htm)



*Emerald personnel recovering free petroleum product from water using absorbent pads, December 20, 2014. (Photo/Jessica Starsman, ADEC)*

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** Please refer to the first sitrep distributed June 4, 2014 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first sitrep can be found in the Additional Information box above.