



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program  
**SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)**



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

## **BPXA Flow Station 1 Drill Site 2 Well 3 Release**

**SITREP #:** 4

**SPILL #:** 17399910401

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 3:45 P.M. ON APRIL 17, 2017

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** BP EXPLORATION ALASKA, INC. (BPXA)

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** BPXA Drill Site 2 (DS2) pad, Well 3 in the Greater Prudhoe Bay area approximately 5 miles from the Deadhorse Airport (Lat/Long: 70.268653, -148.78641).

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** Unknown.

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** BPXA employees discovered an uncontrolled gas and oil release from the top of a well house at approximately 7:30 a.m. on April 14, 2017. The crude spray from the top of the well house was confirmed at approximately 8:15 a.m. BPXA reported the spill to ADEC via the Fairbanks spill reporting line at 8:45 a.m. on April 14, 2017.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The well is no longer venting gas, which caused an initial spray of crude oil that impacted the well pad. A Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) overflight on April 14, 2017, showed that the crude spray plume did not leave the pad. The impacted area is limited to the reserve pit of the gravel pad, however cleanup responders have not yet confirmed there are no impacts to adjacent tundra. No volume estimate for the crude spray released is available at this time.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The cause of the release is unknown at this time. ADEC is coordinating with BPXA and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) to investigate the cause of the release. Well 3 is an oil and gas production well.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The well is no longer leaking oil or gas. The well was killed at 03:35 AKST by pumping in potassium chloride (salt water), offsetting upward pressure. The well is not officially secured, until such time as a mechanical plug is installed. The dynamic kill means that hydraulic pressure is still being applied to the well. Pressure will be maintained by BPXA until the mechanical plug is installed.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** ADEC has mobilized three response personnel to the BPXA Command Post located on the North Slope, and two additional responders are presently en route. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) response personnel have also mobilized to the scene. Responders attempted to bring the well under control on April 14, however, this operation was unsuccessful due to damage on a well pressure gauge. Responders determined that the well had "jacked up," or risen, approximately 3 – 4 feet; this vertical movement of the well caused the pressure gauge to break off and prevented operations from pumping into the well to kill it. The well has since settled 11 inches, and there has been no change in movement of the well head. Continuous air monitoring has been established inside the well house. Yesterday, responders from the well control contractor,

Boots and Coots, were able to safely enter the well house and place a plug in the damaged aboveground piping (riser) coming off the well head. The plugging of the damaged aboveground piping allowed for responders to pump a methanol and potassium chloride (salt water) solution into the well which killed it.

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** ADEC received notification on April 14, 2017, that crude has impacted the DS2 gravel pad. Responders have not been able to safely access the area and determine if there are impacts to the snow-covered tundra adjacent to DS2. The total area that has been impacted is unknown at this time. There are no reports of any impacts to wildlife. The community of Nuiqsut, approximately 50 miles west of DS2, has been notified of the incident and is receiving situation updates via these situation reports. All personnel were removed from the drill pad. No evacuations have been ordered.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** BPXA has formed a Unified Command (UC) with ADEC, EPA, and the North Slope Borough. BPXA is putting together a plan for placing a mechanical plug at the damaged section of the downhole pipe. Once well control has been achieved, BPXA will work with their Oil Spill Response Organization, Alaska Clean Seas (ACS), to delineate the impacted area. Cleanup plans will be developed through the Incident Command System and with guidance from the UC.

**WEATHER:** Today: Sunny with a mix of clouds with winds changing direction during the day; high of 21F, low of 0F; east winds at 20 – 30mph, changing to east-northeast throughout the day; 10% chance of snow. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and windy; high 17F, low -3F; northeast winds at 10-15mph changing to east-northeast during the day; 10% chance of snow.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Andy Burden, BPXA  
SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC  
FOSC: Richard Franklin, EPA  
LOSC: Brower Frantz, NSB

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: TO BE DETERMINED**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Candice Bressler, PIO, ADEC (907) 465-5009

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sum\\_fy17/170414301/170414301\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sum_fy17/170414301/170414301_index.htm)



FLIR image from the incident location, taken during an overflight on April 14, 2017. Well 3 and the extent of crude misting is visible on the snow within the red-lined area. [Photo: BPXA]

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first sitrep, distributed on April 14, 2017, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first sitrep can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.