

UNIFIED INCIDENT COMMAND NEWS RELEASE #2

Incident Name: BPXA Flow Station 1 Drill Site 2 Well 3 Discharge, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska

Source: Unified Command Joint Information Center

Contact: [Alaska DEC PIO 907-465-5009](tel:907-465-5009) / [U.S. EPA PIO 206-900-3309](tel:206-900-3309) / [BPXA PIO 907-301-8726](tel:907-301-8726)

Unified Command Announces BPXA Well 3 Gas and Oil Leak Stopped

Well has been killed; crews now working to install mechanical plug to permanently secure well

Report as of 5:30 pm AKDT on April 17, 2017, note: all times are Alaska Time

BPXA Well 3 on Alaska's North Slope is no longer venting gas, which caused an initial spray of crude oil that impacted the gravel well pad. The well was killed today at approximately 3:35 am AKST by pumping in salt water, offsetting upward pressure. The well is not officially secured until 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.

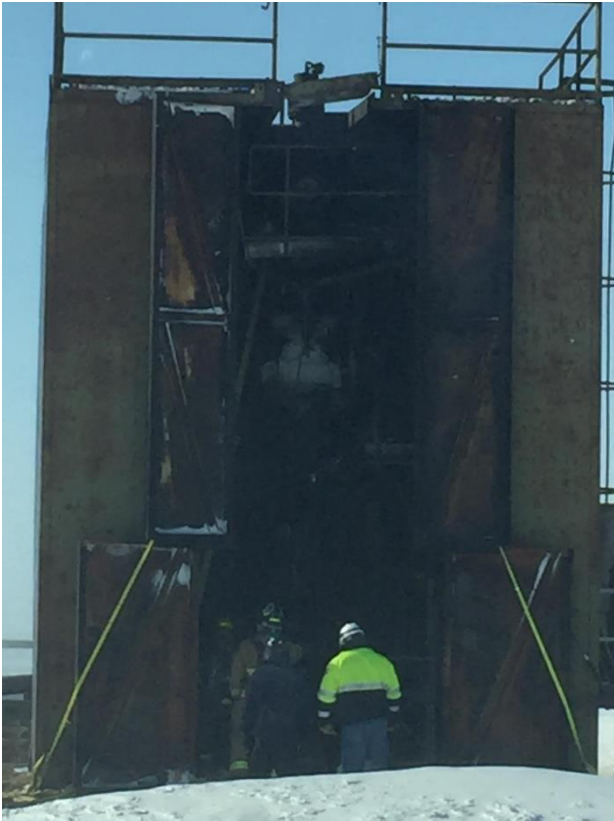
Yesterday, responders from the well control contractor, Boots and Coots, were able to safely enter the well house and place a plug in the damaged aboveground piping (riser) coming off the well head. The plugging of the damaged aboveground piping allowed for responders to pump a salt water solution into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

Unified Command will review BPXA plans for placing a mechanical plug at the damaged section of the downhole pipe. Once the well is secured downhole, BPXA will work with their Oil Spill Response Organization, Alaska Clean Seas, to delineate the impacted area. Cleanup plans will be developed through the Incident Management Team and with guidance from the Unified Command. The Unified Command consists of responders from Alaska Department of Conservation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, North Slope Borough, and BP Exploration Alaska.

On April 14, 2017, a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) overflight showed that the crude spray plume did not extend beyond the gravel well pad. Presently, the situation is not yet safe for cleanup responders to access the area in order to confirm no impacts to adjacent tundra. However, there have been no reports of impacts to wildlife and no injuries. No estimate of the leak volume is available at this time.

Updated situation reports and more information is available on the incident website at: http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sum_fy17/170414301/170414301_index.htm.

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Emergency responders inside BPXA Well 3 well house, April 16, 2017 (EPA)

Previously released information:

Report as of 3:00 pm AKDT on 15 April 2017, Note: All times are Alaska Time

A Unified Command, consisting of responders from Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation ADEC, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the North Slope Borough, and BP Exploration Alaska has been established to respond to the BP Flow Station 1 Drill Site 2 Well 3 natural gas and crude oil discharge near Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. The Unified Command will ensure safe and efficient coordination of resources and information amongst BPXA and state and federal regulators. To date, there have been no injuries and no reported impacts to wildlife.

BPXA Well 3 is located in the Greater Prudhoe Bay area, approximately 5 miles from the Deadhorse Airport on Alaska's North Slope. On April 14, 2017, at approximately 7:30 am, BPXA employees discovered an uncontrolled gas release from the top of Well 3. At approximately 8:15 am, BPXA confirmed the crude spray from the top of the well house and reported the spill to ADEC via the Fairbanks spill reporting line and to U.S. EPA via the National Response Center.

The well is currently venting gas, which caused a spray of crude to impact the well pad. A Forward Looking Infrared or FLIR overflight shows that the crude spray plume did not leave the pad, however, the situation is not safe yet for responders to access the area and confirm that there have been no impacts to adjacent tundra. No volume estimate for crude spray released is available at this time. Two leaks have been identified on the well, one near the top and one further down the well assembly. The top leak was misting oil in conjunction with releasing

natural gas, but the activation of the surface safety valve has stopped the release from this point. The bottom leak is currently leaking gas as well as some minor amount of crude oil. The well structure is housed in a metal "well house" which is helping to contain any oil spray.

ADEC and U.S. EPA have mobilized response personnel to the Unified Incident Command Post located on the North Slope. Responders attempted to secure the well last night, however, this operation was unsuccessful due to safety concerns and damage to a well pressure gauge. Continuous air monitoring has been established around the well, and the situation remained stable overnight. Responders are not able to safely assess the impacted area until the well has been controlled.

The Unified Command continues working to formulate a plan to bring the well under control. Once well control has been achieved, BPXA will work with their Oil Spill Response Organization, Alaska Clean Seas, to delineate the impacted area. Cleanup plans will be developed through the Incident Command System and with guidance from the Unified Command.

The cause of the discharge is unknown at this time. ADEC and U.S. EPA are coordinating with BPXA and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to investigate the cause of the discharge, following the securing of the well.

Updated situation reports and more information is available on the incident website at: http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sum_fy17/170414301/170414301_index.htm.

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