

**THIS IS A DRILL**  
PWS 2016 EXERCISE

10 a.m. October 19, 2016

CONTACT: Joint Information Center (907) 834-6743

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## **Press Release 1**

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The U.S. Coast Guard, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Tesoro, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and the City of Valdez have formed a Unified Command in response to an oil spill in Port Valdez at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

At 2 a.m. Wednesday, October 19, an oil spill to water was reported at Berth 4 at the Valdez Marine Terminal. The spill source appears to have been the deck piping on the *Overseas Boston*, which was being loaded at the time. Based upon preliminary information, the initial spill was estimated at 33,600-50,400 gallons. The spill source has been controlled. No injuries have been reported and there is no current threat to the community of Valdez. The Trans Alaska Pipeline System is still operational.

On-water and on-land response cleanup teams have been activated. Tier I and II fishing vessels from Valdez have been called up for response support; a number of Tier I and II fishing vessels from Cordova have also been requested.

The main objectives of the response are the safety of community members and responders, as well as protection of the environment. Site entry control has been established and teams are activating staged equipment in an effort to recover oil, control the spill area and establish staging areas. Air quality is also being monitored.

Wildlife have been observed in the vicinity of the spill area and are likely oiled. Wildlife task forces have been deployed and a wildlife overflight took place this morning. Protecting environmentally sensitive areas is a priority: top priorities are Sawmill and Salmon Creeks and Seven Mile Beach. Response personnel are monitoring sensitive areas such as the Duck Flats and Solomon Gulch Salmon Hatchery. The public is encouraged to call in wildlife reports at (907) 843-6743 until a designated wildlife hotline is established.

The U.S. Coast Guard is enforcing a 200-yard safety zone around the spill area. Mariners are asked to keep a safe distance. Flights are restricted over the Valdez Marine Terminal.

More information will be released as it becomes available. For more updates, visit the spill response site at [www.piersystem.com/go/doc/7582/2816634](http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/7582/2816634) and follow social media updates on Twitter (@PWS2016Exercise) and Facebook (PWS 2016 Exercise).

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