



Significant Responses This Quarter

Spirit of '98 -- Upper Tracy Arm

Spill Date: July 27, 1999

Product/Quantity: engine room oil; minor amount

Cause: collision

The Spirit of '98, a 192-foot passenger vessel carrying 94 passengers, struck an unknown object while underway. The collision damaged the diesel generator keel cooler and caused two cracks on the starboard side of the vessel. All passengers were safely transferred from the vessel. Crew members deployed boom around the vessel to contain pollution from pumping the flooded engine compartment. Contractors made temporary repairs to the vessel before proceeding to Ketchikan.



Unocal Explosion -- Nikiski

Spill Date: August 20, 1999

Product/Quantity: 9,000 gallons MDEA; 500 pounds ammonia

Cause: explosion



An explosion destroyed a 110,000-gallon capacity storage tank, resulting in a 30,000-gallon spill of methyldiethanolamine (MDEA) solution. About two-thirds spilled to a concrete containment area and was recovered by vacuum truck along with pooled product outside the containment area. Soils were excavated to

a depth of about two feet and stockpiled on-site pending a treatment or disposal decision.



International Aviation Jet Fuel Spill -- Anchorage

Spill Date: September 5, 1999

Product/Quantity: aviation fuel; 2,600 gallons

Cause: overflow during transfer operations

Approximately 2,600 gallons of Jet A 50 aviation fuel spilled onto the north ramp of Anchorage International Airport when a refueling truck overflowed during a truck-to-truck transfer. The fuel flowed about 300 yards down the tarmac and into an earthen depression. Responders used absorbent pads to collect the fuel and to dam a culvert. A sump truck pumped the fuel out of the depression and off the tarmac. The responsible party removed the contaminated soil for future treatment.



Service Oil & Gas Truck Rollover - MP 84 Glenn Hwy

Spill Date: September 7, 1999

Product/Quantity: diesel; 2,900 gallons

Cause: truck rollover



A three-compartment tanker truck overturned on a curve, damaging the rear compartment and the internal wall between the rear and middle compartments. Approximately 2,900 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into a drainage ditch on the north side of the road and onto a steep hillside on the south

side of the road. Responders from the trucking company and the Department diked the drainage ditch and used sorbents to collect the spilled fuel. A contractor hired by the trucking company, in consultation with the State, developed a soil cleanup and disposal plan. The contractor excavated contaminated soils and clean fill was placed and compacted as specified by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.



Weaver Brothers Truck Rollover - MP 236.5 Parks Hwy

Spill Date: September 7, 1999

Product/Quantity: 50% sodium Hydroxide; 500 gallons

Cause: truck rollover



A tanker truck carrying a 50% solution of sodium hydroxide rolled near Denali Park. Responders from the Department National Park Service and the Tri Valley Volunteer Fire Department managed the response as a Level B incident due to the possible vapor hazard. An estimated 500 gallons spilled to the ground and

travelled approximately 100 feet down-gradient from the tanker. Responders constructed an earthen dam to stop the migration of product. A contractor hired by the truck owner transferred the remaining product to an empty tanker and neutralized the impacted soil with sodium bicarbonate. The impacted soil was excavated and disposed of off-site.

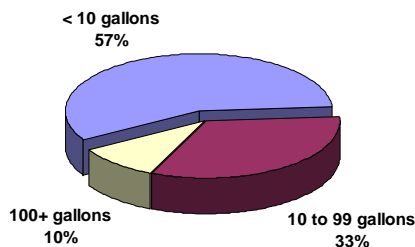


For more information about these and other incidents, visit our website at

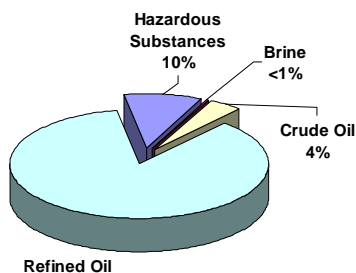
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/dspar/perp>

Data Summary

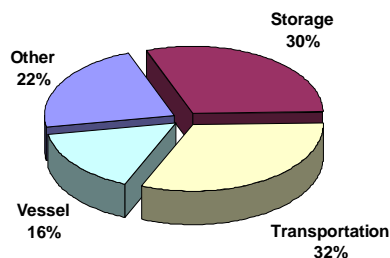
Oil and Hazardous Substance Spills July 1-September 30, 1999



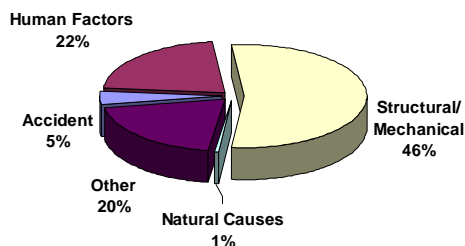
Number of Spills by Size Class



Number of Spills by Product



Number of Spills by Source



Number of Spills by Cause

Spill News

CLEANUP

Kuroshima Oil Spill: DEC staff traveled to Dutch Harbor to conduct shoreline assessment surveys at areas that were heavily impacted during the November 1997 spill. A cleanup crew was mobilized by the responsible party to address residual pockets of asphalt-like tarry oil along the rocky headlands between Humpy and Morris Coves. In addition to areas along the outer coast, tarballs and patties were removed from a 200-foot section of the western shoreline of Summer Bay beach. Some tarballs and patties were also collected along the northern shoreline of Summer Bay Lake. In consultation with the Ounalashka Corporation and City of Unalaska, the responsible party began restoration activities at the recreation area east of Summer Bay road. Equipment containers were nested in a hollow area within the dunes and sand from the marine beach is being brought in to create an artificial dune which existed prior to the spill. Beach rye grass sprigs were also planted.

Kachemak Fisheries Cannery: On July 1, staff traveled to Seldovia to monitor the progress of the cleanup and provide technical assistance at the abandoned cannery. No ammonia or other hazardous substances remain in the main cannery building, with the exception of small amounts of ammonia in piping. There are four halon and freon freezers on the property plus an ammonia "ice house," but this equipment is in relatively good condition and will be sold. The Seldovia SOS Team will prepare a treatment plan for a limited amount of contaminated soil in an area where drums of waste oil were stored and in another location where equipment was maintained.

Goodnews Bay: On August 2, DEC staff traveled to Goodnews Bay and conducted a site assessment of the spill and cleanup area. It appears that diesel contamination is continuing to migrate into the tidal area. The emergent vegetation in a 90' x 90' irregular area within the tidal flat area is distressed or dead due to the contamination. Pits were hand dug downgradient and parallel to the existing collection pit. Product was observed flowing up and into some of the pits. Apparent source of contamination is a spill that occurred last fall at the washeteria owned and operated by the city. Estimates of product loss range from 6,000-12,000 gallons of diesel. DEC and the U.S. Coast Guard will work with the city to expand cleanup efforts on the tide flats.

PLANNING AND PREVENTION

Small Passenger Vessel Safety Task Force: After three groundings of "pocket" cruise ships within 6 weeks in Southeast Alaska, the U.S. Coast Guard formed the Small Passenger Vessel Safety Task Force. The task force is examining small passenger vessel operations to identify operational and safety measures that may reduce the risk of accidents and minimize their consequences. The Task Force focuses on vessels in the 50- to 200-foot range that each carry about 100 passengers

Spill News

through remote areas of Alaska. Preliminary findings and recommendations for implementation during the 1999 operating season are available on the web (<http://www.akrrt.org/spvtaskforce/index.htm>).

RESPONSES

Umiat Naval Well #8. DEC received a report in July 1999 that an oil well under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) control was "whistling" as natural gas escaped from the wellhead. BLM had known of the well's condition for two years, but the site had not been visited since the summer of 1998. According to the best information available to the Department, the gas was coming from a cracked weld on the casing. DEC could not ascertain whether the well was also losing reservoir fluids. Due to BLM's refusal to launch an immediate on-site investigation, DEC hired a response action contractor to document site conditions and develop a plug and patch plan for the wellhead. The DEC contractor discovered that the master valve was failing and a pressure gauge fitting was loose. The contractor tightened the fitting but did not have the necessary parts to repair the valve. BLM has since sent out a repair team to add a second valve that will control the gas release. DEC will be working with the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to address this and numerous other improperly abandoned wells under BLM jurisdiction. DEC is also working with the Attorney General's Office to reply to BLM, which has denied DEC authority in this matter, accused the Department of trespassing and refused to reimburse the Department for costs incurred in its initial investigation of the release. The source was controlled as of September 26, 1999.

Methamphetamine Lab: On June 28, DEC staff monitored the dismantling of a methamphetamine lab in Valdez by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The DEA has contracted Philips Services of Anchorage for classification and disposal of the seized chemicals that were on site. The property owner will also be using Philips Services for an assessment of the lab site, potential soil removal, and remediation if needed.

Unocal Swanson River Field: On July 9, staff responded to a spill involving an underground 3-inch flow line from Well Pad 41-33 to Tank Setting 1-33 at the Swanson River Field. An estimated 110 gallons of produced water (95 %) and crude oil (5 %) were discharged as a result of a leak in the line. External corrosion is the suspected cause. The pipeline was isolated and two truck-loads of contaminated soil were removed to the facility's solid waste disposal cell. Unocal will replace the entire flow line, which had already been scheduled for replacement.

PLEASE NOTE. . . This report is based on provisional spill data. Readers should be aware that minor discrepancies in the data may exist.

Spill Digest

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

(does not include *brine* or releases reported in *pounds*)

Total Count: 54

Total Gallons: 13,388

Top 5 Substances

Product	Count	Gallons
Methyldiethanolamine (MDEA)	1	9,000
Sodium Hydroxide	2	620
Ethylene Glycol (Antifreeze)	18	205
Sulfuric Acid	3	85
Drag Reducing Agent	1	60

Top 5 Causes

Cause	Count	Gallons
Explosion	1	9,000
Intentional Release	9	1,171
Seal Failure	7	969
Overturn/Capsized	3	530
Leak, Other	6	527

Top 5 Sources

Source	Count	Gallons
Refinery	3	9,040
Water Treatment Facility	2	1,600
Truck	4	515
Home/Office/Business	8	250
Pipeline	3	195

CRUDE AND REFINED OIL

Total Count: 447

Total Gallons: 21,775

Top 5 Substances

Product	Count	Gallons
Diesel	210	18,186
Hydraulic Oil	64	981
Gasoline	59	535
Engine Lube Oil	26	338
Crude	20	321

Top 5 Causes

Cause	Count	Gallons
Tank Overfill	77	6,151
Crash	4	2,960
Connection Faulty	12	1,828
Grounding	4	1,640
Line Ruptured	56	1,635

Top 5 Sources

Source	Count	Gallons
Truck	22	6,013
Oil Term Facility/Tank Farm	8	2,293
Fishing	31	2,193
Tank Farm	10	1,962
Home Heating Tank	26	1,961

1999-2000 Calendar

MEETINGS

October 14	Alaska OSC Workgroup, Anchorage
October 18-19	NGA Contingency Planning Workshop, Portland, OR
October 20	SERC Meeting, Anchorage
October 25-26	States/B.C. Task Force Coordinating Committee, Olympia, WA
January 19	SERC Meeting, Anchorage
December 7-8	FOG Workgroup Meeting, Alameda, CA (tentative)

DRILLS

November 1-5	HAZMAT Drill, Kodiak
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SEND COMMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS TO:

Camille Stephens, 410 Willoughby Ave., Juneau, AK 99801

or

email: cstephen@envircon.state.ak.us

At a glance... July 1 - September 30, 1999

Spill Summary

Total Spills Reported (includes 8 Brine releases):	516
Oil -- Total Gallons Released	21,775
Hazardous substances -- Total Gallons Released	13,388
Brine -- Total Gallons Released	8,009

Oil Releases

Total Spills Reported:	447
Largest Total Volume Released	
Substance: (210 spills; 18,186 gallons)	Diesel
Cause (77 spills; 6,151 gallons)	Tank Overfill
Source (22 spills; 6,013 gallons)	Truck
Largest Single Release	Diesel; 2,900 gallons

Hazardous Substance Releases (excluding brine)

Total Spills Reported:	61
Largest Total Volume Released	
Substance (1 spill; 9,000 gallons)	MDEA***
Cause* (1 spill; 9,000 gallons)	Explosion
Source* (3 spills; 9,040 gallons)	Refinery
Largest Single Release*	MDEA***; 9,000 gallons

*excludes "Other" or "Unknown"

**excludes 7 releases reported in pounds

***methyldiethanolamine



Prevention and Emergency Response Program
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Department of Environmental Conservation
410 Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/dspar/perp/perphome.htm>
Phone: 907-465-5220
FAX: 907-465-5244

mail label

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Insert - Quarterly Data