



**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**

## **APL Yard Diesel Release Kodiak**



**SITREP #:** 4

**SPILL #:** 19239907501

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 2:40 p.m. March 29, 2019

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** American President Lines LTD (APL)

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** APL yard, east of the intersection of Anton Larsen Bay Road and Old Tom Stiles Road, Kodiak

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** Overnight on March 15-16, 2019

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** The spill was reportedly discovered at 9:00 a.m. on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Environmental Contracting Solutions, Inc. (ECS), a consultant for APL notified the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) at 12:00 p.m. ADEC personnel notified the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Kodiak and the National Response Center at 12:20 pm.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The quantity of diesel that leaked was reported to the department on March 16<sup>th</sup> by ECS as 1,369 gallons. An investigation is underway to verify the quantity of fuel released from the line.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The release was from a genset (a shipping container with a generator and a 2,475-gallon fuel tank inside) on the APL yard. Details about how the release occurred remain under investigation. Rainfall caused the fuel to enter runoff flow across the yard into a drainage ditch adjacent to the yard. Fuel and runoff flowed from the drainage ditch into a culvert that flowed into a tributary of the Buskin River. From the tributary it flowed into the Buskin River and into St. Paul Harbor.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The entire contents of the fuel storage was reportedly empty when the release was discovered.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** APL contracted ECS to respond to the spill. APL and ECS personnel used check dams, trenching, and absorbent materials in the drainage ditch to prevent more fuel from entering the culverts and river. APL and ECS personnel also placed boom at the inlets and outlets of the culvert. After receiving the report MSD Kodiak personnel and the USCG fire department immediately arrived on scene of the incident to assist in the response activities. ECS initiated an aerial survey of the river, estuary, and harbor. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) personnel began conducting wildlife surveys.

APL contracted Alaska Chadux Corporation (Chadux) in the afternoon of March 16<sup>th</sup> to respond to the spill. Chadux arrived in Kodiak in the evening on March 16<sup>th</sup>. ADEC personnel arrived in Kodiak in the morning on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> Chadux and ECS responders conducted shoreline assessments on the river and beaches to identify impacted areas. Responders have been using both passive and mechanical fuel recovery tactics in the river and tributary. Responders have deployed absorbent sweep and boom along the river bank to recover fuel and an oleophilic skimmer in conjunction with the boom at the mouth of the tributary entering Buskin River.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> a second fixed wing over flight was conducted to view the beach and the mouth of the Buskin River. Responders with assistance from USFWS conducted assessments of the river bank and USFWS personnel continued to conduct wildlife surveys. Due to the heavy rainfall responders began constructing a system of underflow dams and passive recovery at the APL yard to begin managing storm water runoff from the impacted area.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> responders continued to maintain absorbent boom at the mouth of the Buskin River. Responders continued skimming operations of fuel at the containment boom. Between 125 and 150 gallons total of fuel were recovered until skimming operations ended. The containment boom was lined with absorbent boom for passive recovery. Responders removed oily debris and deployed absorbent boom and sweep at an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) weir in the tributary. Responders continued to construct the runoff management system at the yard.

Heavy rains necessitated fortification of the runoff management system. During discharge from the system responders were on site to observe for sheen.

From the 19<sup>th</sup> to present all recovery of fuel has been passive through use of absorbent boom, sweep, and pads. Responders are continuing daily maintenance of the containment boom at the mouth of the tributary. To date between 125 and 150 gallons of free product have been recovered and 108 bags of oily waste generated for disposal. The impacted area is monitored daily.

Representatives from APL, ADEC, USCG, ADFG, and Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) were on site March 23 and 24 to conduct an assessment of the impacted area. Cold water deluge began at a gravel beach identified for additional response effort during the assessment.

Cold water deluge at the gravel beach below the State Recreational Site ended on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The use of this technique was successful, removing some fuel from the substrate of the beach. The Unified Command decided to end cold water deluge when sheening released in deluge operations could no longer be recovered and to prevent further erosion and disturbance to the beach sediments. Representatives from ADEC, USCG, and APL conducted a field assessment at the beach following the end of deluge. Test pits were dug into the beach using hand tools to determine the extent of the remaining fuel. This assessment revealed slight sheening in some of the sediments in the area where the impact was observed. The determination was made that the sheen was not recoverable. Light sheening and diesel odor may be observed at this beach while the fuel continues to degrade and tides rework sediment on the beach.

Absorbents were removed from the mouth of the river and the marshy area near the mouth. Containment boom remained in place in the tributary to prevent any stranded fuel from washing into the Buskin during high water events. The 18-inch boom at the tributary was replaced with 10-inch boom to prevent impediment to fish passage during low water.

A maintenance plan was approved for the containment boom and runoff management system in the yard. Maintenance will continue while the containment boom and structures are in place.

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** The Buskin River State Recreational Site is used for recreational and subsistence fishing activities and walking. Members of the Sun'aq Tribe gather grass from the area for traditional use.

The Buskin River is the main subsistence and sport fishing river in Kodiak.

Buskin River and wetlands complex are known to support chum, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon, Dolly Varden, and steelhead trout spawning and rearing habitat. Pacific razor clam beds are located in nearshore waters by the mouth of the Buskin River and may be harvested by subsistence users.

The impacted area provides wintering habitat for waterfowl, including Steller's eider, emperor goose, and yellow-billed loon. A number of other species, such as the black oystercatcher, marbled murrelet, peregrine falcon and bald eagle are present year round.

Multiple species listed under the Endangered Species Act are likely present in the area including Northern sea otters, Steller sea lion, and humpback whales. Other marine mammals that may be present are sperm whales, killer whales, harbor seals, harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise and Minke whales.

Wildlife have been observed around the impacted area during USFWS surveys. One sea otter carcass was discovered near the impacted area, however, marine mammal experts from multiple agencies think that it is unlikely to be related to the spill.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** ECS personnel will maintain containment boom, absorbents, and the runoff system in accordance with the approved plan. ECS has submitted a corrective action plan for the yard that is under review. A multi-agency assessment will be conducted.

**WEATHER:** Light rain, mid 30's to mid 40's. Tomorrow partly sunny, high in the upper 40's. High tides today at 11:44 p.m., tomorrow at 10:35 a.m., and Sunday at 12:33 a.m. Low tides today at 4:47 p.m., and tomorrow at 4:40 a.m. and 5:51 p.m.

**UNIFIED COMMAND:**

APL Representative: David Nyman

State On-Scene Coordinator: Geoff Merrell

Federal On-Scene Coordinator representative: LTJG Andy Ready

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Geoff Merrell, State On-Scene Coordinator, ADEC (907) 269-7682. Website:  
<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2019/04-apl-yard/>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed on March 17, 2019, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.