



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

Barge Alaganik Fire Release

SITREP #: 1

SPILL #: 19239918901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 pm July 9, 2019

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Alaganik LLC

INCIDENT LOCATION: City of Whittier DeLong Dock, Whittier, Alaska.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: Approximately midnight on July 8, 2019.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: A bystander reported the release to ADEC in the early morning hours of July 8, 2019.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The PRP estimates there was 1,000 gallons of gasoline, 2,800 gallons of diesel, and some hydraulic and engine oil on board. The maximum capacity of the barge is up to 5,500 gallons.

CAUSE OF SPILL: An explosion occurred on or near the barge. The barge caught fire at the pier. The cause of the explosion is unknown at this time.

SOURCE CONTROL: The barge sunk at the end of the pier in 60-80 feet of water. The PRP contracted Alaska Chadux Corporation (Chadux) and Global Diving and Salvage for spill response and salvage operations.

RESPONSE ACTION: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) have completed search and rescue operations. Chadux arrived and deployed containment boom around the sunken barge. USCG and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) responders arrived on site to assess the extent of the release and coordinate the pollution response with the PRP on July 8th. The USCG established a safety zone around the pier and are asking mariners and the public to 100 yards away from the site to allow response operations to continue. ADEC Division of Environmental Health Food Safety Program personnel worked with commercial fishing operators on the pier to assess whether seafood stored at pier facilities had been contaminated. The State Fire Marshal and Alaska State Troopers are also on scene to conduct investigations.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: The pier, owned by the City, was damaged by the fire. The fire impacted commercial interests of several business that operate at the pier. The Alaska Marine Highway Ferry Terminal is to the west of the pier but was not impacted by the fire. The small boat harbor is west of the pier and was also not impacted by the fire. Light sheen from the release was observed in both areas on July 8th. On July 9th sheen had dissipated in the small boat harbor and no response actions were required. This area has a high use commercial and recreational fishery with a large amount of vessel traffic.



ESA listed marine mammals likely to be present include humpback whales, Stellar sea lions, and possibly fin whales. Other marine mammals likely to be present include harbor seals, gray whales, harbor porpoise, killer whales, minke whales, and Pacific white sided dolphins.

A number of anadromous streams exist in the area supporting coho and pink salmon. There is a terminal king salmon fishery in Cove Creek and a substantial amount of recreational fishing in the area. Whittier and Passage Canal have Essential Fish Habitat for Kamchatka flounder, Alaska plaice, Dover sole, Flathead sole, Rex sole, Walley Pollock, Yellowfin sole, Arrowtooth flounder, Northern Rock sole, Pacific cod, Pacific ocean perch, Sablefish, Souther rock sole, and all five species of Pacific salmon. NOAA has an artificial reef located in Passage Canal.

Numerous seabird nesting and feeding areas are found in Passage Canal. This includes black-legged kittiwake, pigeon guillemot, glaucous-winged gull, mew gull, herring gull, common loon, red-throated loon, red-necked grebe, marbled murrelet, common murre, pelagic cormorant, harlequin duck, black-oystercatcher, surfbirds, yellowlegs, and low numbers of other shorebirds. Bald eagles, northwestern crows, and Steller's jays could be foraging along shorelines.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Diving operations will begin tomorrow to assess the condition of the barge and determine the remaining threat of pollution. Chadux continues to monitor containment boom around the barge. ADEC and USCG responders are in Whittier to coordinate the response.

WEATHER: Today: Variable wind 10 kt., Seas 5 ft., 72°F, Areas of fog and smoke. Wednesday: Variable wind 10 kt., Seas 3 ft., 72°F, Areas of fog and smoke.

PERSONNEL:

Responsible Party: Robert Eckley, Alaganik LLC

State On-Scene Coordinator representative: Lisa Krebs-Barsis, ADEC

Federal On-Scene Coordinator representative: Chief Nate Hatfield, USCG

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Krebs-Barsis, EPS IV, ADEC (907) 269-8487
<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/>

PHOTOGRAPH



Alaska Chadux Corporation deployed containment boom around barge location. ADEC 7-9-19

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor's office, State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state agencies. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Senate E	Senator Mike Shower	Email	senator.mike.shower@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Wasilla (4/20-1/15)	465-6600 376-3370	
House 9	Representative George Rauscher	Email	representative.george.rauscher@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Wasilla (4/20-1/15)	465-4859 373-6287	
ADNR	Clark Cox	Email	clark.cox@alaska.gov	269-7470	269-8913
ADF&G	Jeanette Alas	Email	Jeanette.alas@alaska.gov	267-2805	267-2499
US EPA	Matt Carr Bob Whittier	Fax	Carr.matthew@epa.gov Whittier.robert@epa.gov	206-553-1263 or 206-553-1264	271-3424
USCG-Sector /ANC	USCG-Anchorage	Email		428-4100	428-4114 (24 hr)
CIRCAC	Mike Munger	Fax/Email	mikemunger@circac.org and stevecatalano@circac.org	283-7222	283-6102
PWS/RCAC	Donna Schantz	Email	donna.schantz@pwsrcac.org	877-478-7221	835-5926
Chugach Alaska Corp	Ryan Kegley, General Manager	Email	ryan.kegley@chugach.com	261-0474	261-8844
Whittier-City Mgr.	City Manager	Email		472-2327 ext. 3	472-2404