



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

## **Aero Air Plane Crash in Unalaska Bay**



**SITREP #:** 1

**SPILL #:** 20259901601

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 2:00 pm on January 16, 2020

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Aero Air LLC

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Unalaska Bay about 100 feet northwest of the end of the Unalaska runway  
(Lat/Long 53.904022, -166.553060)

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** 8:00 am on January 16, 2020

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** The City of Unalaska initially reported the plane crash to the National Response Center (NRC) at 10:00 am on January 16, 2020. US Coast Guard (USCG) MSD Dutch Harbor personnel reported the pollution event to the Department of Environmental Conservation at 10:20 am on January 16, 2020. There is a visible sheen on the water.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** An unknown amount of Jet A fuel has been released at this time. The fuel capacity of a King Air B200 Aircraft is 545 gallons. The USCG reports there was an estimated 430-440 gallons of Jet A on board at the time of takeoff.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The plane crashed into the marine waters of Unalaska Bay shortly after takeoff from the Unalaska airport. The cause of the plane crash is unknown at this time.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The plane has sunk below the water's surface into 60-100 feet of water. The fuel vents are unsecured, leaving the source uncontrolled.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Vessel traffic has been rerouted away from the area of the crash by USCG personnel. Divers are unable to deploy to the sunken plane at this time. Wildlife have been observed in the area including Steller's eiders and emperor geese.

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** Unalaska Bay in the vicinity of the spill site supports several species listed under the Endangered Species Act likely to be present at this time, including: Western Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Steller sea lions (endangered) and Critical Habitat, Southwest Alaska DPS Northern sea otters (threatened) and Critical Habitat, and Steller's eiders (threatened). Other marine mammal species likely to be in the area at this time include harbor seals, Dall's porpoise, and harbor porpoise. Overwintering waterfowl and seabirds are also likely to be present. Unalaska Bay is considered Essential Fish Habitat for several species, including salmon, rockfish, flatfish, Pacific cod, pollock, and weathervane scallops. The spill site is a popular area for recreational rockfish and Chinook salmon fishing, but no fishing effort has been observed in the past week.

No commercial or subsistence fishing efforts are currently expected in this area. Nearby lands are part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** An overflight by helicopter is planned for 2:00 pm January 16 to assess the extent of the spill. The responsible party is working with a marine salvage contractor to raise the plane in the coming days, weather permitting.

**WEATHER:** Today: 40°F, ESE winds 15 knots, seas <1 foot, rain and snow. High tide was at 10:33 am and the low tide is at 4:46 pm. The next high tide is at 9:37 pm.

Tonight: 32°F, SE winds 25 knots, gusts to 40 knots, seas 4 feet, rain and snow

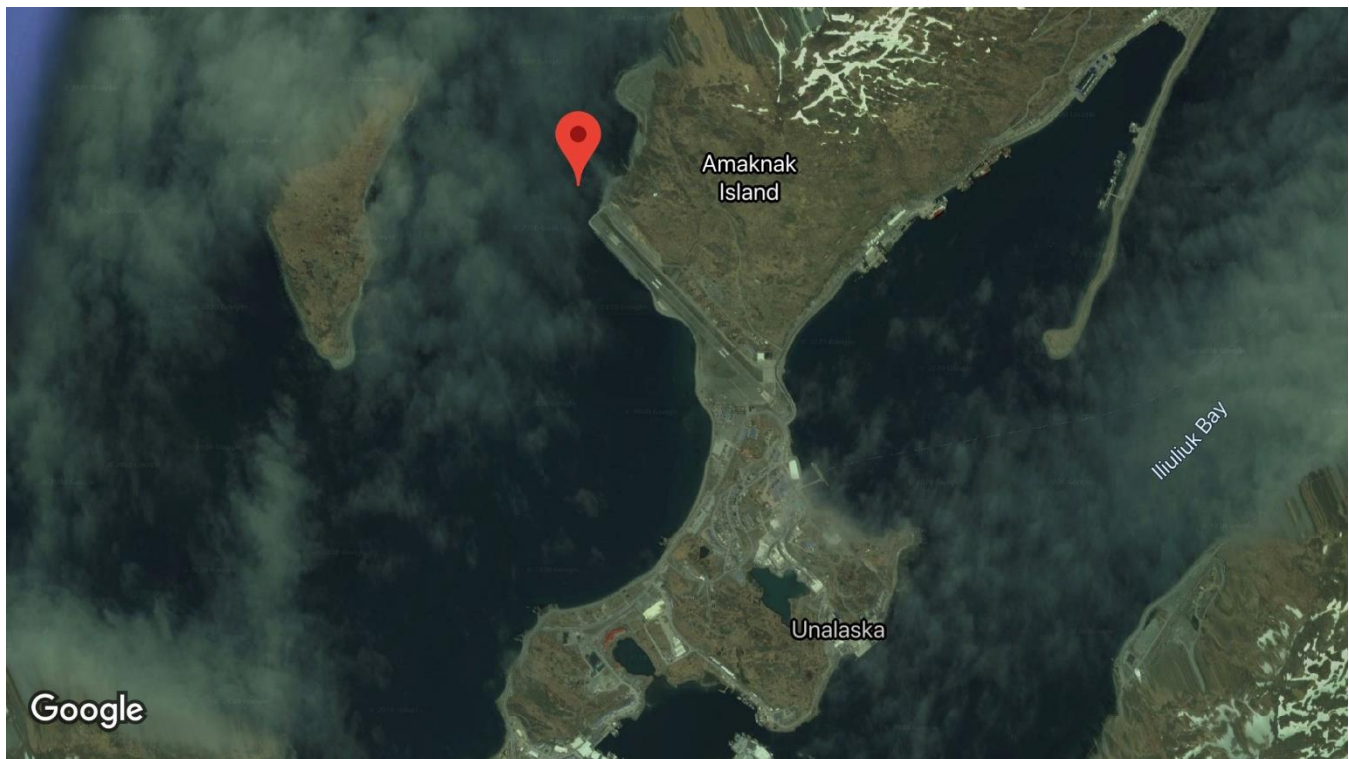
Tomorrow: 35°F, E wind 35 knots, seas 5 feet, rain and snow

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bernie Nowicki, Environmental Program Specialist, ADEC (907) 269-8149

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/>



Approximate location of crash site

**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
Senate S- Bethel	Senator Lyman Hoffman	Fax	<a href="mailto:senator.lyman.hoffman@akleg.gov">senator.lyman.hoffman@akleg.gov</a>	465-4453 543-3541
House 37- Dillingham	Representative Bryce Edgmon	Fax	<a href="mailto:representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov">representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov</a>	465-4451 269-0275
ADNR	Clark Cox	Email	<a href="mailto:Clark.cox@alaska.gov">Clark.cox@alaska.gov</a>	269-7470
ADF&G	Jeanette Alas	Email	<a href="mailto:Jeanette.alas@alaska.gov">Jeanette.alas@alaska.gov</a>	267-2805
USCG-Sector /ANC	USCG-Anchorage	Fax		428-4100
US EPA	Robert Whittier	Fax	<a href="mailto:Whittier.robert@epa.gov">Whittier.robert@epa.gov</a>	206-553-1263 or 206-553-1264
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association	Community Services Department	Fax	<a href="mailto:api.ai@api.ai.org">api.ai@api.ai.org</a>	276-2700
Aleut Corporation/ Anchorage Office	George Pollock	Fax	<a href="mailto:gpollock@aleutcorp.com">gpollock@aleutcorp.com</a>	277-7521
Dutch Harbor Port Director	Peggy McLaughlin	Fax	<a href="mailto:pmclaughlin@ci.unalaska.ak.us">pmclaughlin@ci.unalaska.ak.us</a>	581-1254
Unalaska, Mayor's Office	Vincent Tutiakoff, Sr.	Fax	<a href="mailto:MayorTutiakoff@ci.unalaska.ak.us">MayorTutiakoff@ci.unalaska.ak.us</a>	581-1251
AK Maritime Wildlife Refuge	Steven Delehanty	Email/Fax	<a href="mailto:steve_delehanty@fws.gov">steve_delehanty@fws.gov</a>	226-4627