



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

2020 VMT Sump Oily Water Spill

SITREP #: 3

SPILL #: 20229910301

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 12:30 PM April 17, 2020

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.

INCIDENT LOCATION: 58-SU-3 Admin Sump, Valdez Marine Terminal

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 7:55 PM April 12, 2020

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The spill was discovered by APSC personnel that observed sheen, near the VMT small boat harbor. The spill was reported to ADEC at 8:16 PM on April 12.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The type of product spilled is primarily a mixture of Alaska North Slope crude with water. The amount released is unknown at this time and will be estimated based on recovery numbers.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The cause is under investigation, but early indicators suggest that the crude/water mixture was leaking from a sump that overflowed.

SOURCE CONTROL: Source is secured. The sump was emptied, a vac truck has been on site, and the sump continues to be monitored. The Ballast Water header which enters this sump was isolated at 10:00 PM on April 13. **Engineers and surveyors are focused on targeting the flow path from the sump to the small boat harbor.**

RESPONSE ACTION: The oil traveled beneath the snow covered surface and came out near the head of Berth 4 into Port Valdez. A tanker was loading at Berth 5 at the time of the incident, but was not affected by the spill. Sheen has been seen east of Berth 4 to the VMT small boat harbor. Most of the sheen is contained behind the Berth 4 area with sorbent boom and sweeps, and two layers of hard yellow boom. Oily water is being skimmed from a corralled 30ft by 30ft area inside the boom. Two Current Buster boom systems are being deployed outside of the boomed area, with trained fishing vessels to catch any escapement. Overflights and vessel surveillance of the area are ongoing. Crews are working to determine the amount of contamination in and around the sump. The USCG and ADEC have been on scene to observe Alyeska's response actions.

An additional layer of bigger boom was deployed outside of the hard yellow boom to enhance the containment of sheen. Boom has been deployed to protect the Solomon Gulch Hatchery and the Valdez Duck Flats. Oil skimming operations have continued and as of 6:00 AM today 681 bbls (28,602 gallons) of oil water mixture has been collected. **Crucial skimmers have been utilized over the last 24 hours and this is reflected in the recovery numbers, as the crucial skimmers are more efficient and capture less water. Additional booming has been**



deployed around the spill area. Boom already deployed around sensitive areas continues to be monitored, with boom being deployed around two additional sensitive areas today. Wildlife hazing and capture is ongoing with the stabilization unit ready to receive wildlife.

Spill delineation near the sump (spill source) has shown heavy snow contamination, and delineation activities and snow removal are still under way. Steps have been taken to make sure that Berth 5 remains clear of sheen to ensure that tankers can be loaded safely.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: The spill is contained behind Berth 4 near the shore. Sensitive area protection task forces are on standby in case the sheen changes location or expands.

Oil has not been seen outside of the VMT berth area. Wildlife have been observed near the spill area; one oiled Kittiwake, and one deceased gull have been reported.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Future plans are to clean up the existing spill site and continue monitoring the situation to evaluate the need to deploy additional response equipment and personnel. The TAPS system remains operational, and there have been no impacts to the operation of the TAPS pipeline itself.

WEATHER: Today: Partly cloudy, Winds calm, Seas calm, Temperature high of 46 °F. Tomorrow mostly cloudy, Winds Northeast 5 mph, Seas calm, Temperature high of 46 °F, 20% chance of precipitation.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

IMT designees:

Incident Commander: Mike Day, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.

SOSC: Crystal Smith, ADEC

FOSC: CMDR Michael Franklin, USCG

Field SOSC: Anna Carey, ADEC

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Crystal Smith, Central Region Manager, ADEC (907) 269-7682

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2020/02-vmt-sump-oily-water-spill/>



Figure 1. Spill containment and recovery activities at the VMT on April 14, 2020. Courtesy ADEC



Figure 2. Overhead photo of the VMT Small Boat Harbor looking East April 16, 2020. Courtesy APSC



Figure 3. Overhead photo of the VMT Small Boat Harbor looking West April 16, 2020. Courtesy APSC

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed April 13, 2020, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.