



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



Utqiagvik Simmonds Field Beach Tanks Release

SITREP #: 1

SPILL #: 21399917301

DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION: June 23, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Undetermined at this time.

INCIDENT LOCATION: Simmonds Field Beach on the Beaufort Sea in the City of Utqiagvik. Coordinates: 71.29190N, 156.77725W

DATE/TIME OF SPILL: Undetermined at this time.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: A private citizen noticed a buried tank leaking a dark, tar-like substance on a beach and posted photos to social media at 12:07 a.m. on June 22, 2021. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) was notified of the social media post the morning of June 22, 2021, and ADEC then contacted the North Slope Borough (NSB) to confirm the location of the release. NSB personnel were able to confirm the location and further document the release. The spill was reported to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Response Center at 10:26 a.m. on June 22, 2021.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The product spilled is undetermined at this time, pending laboratory analysis. Based on historical information, it is suspected to be asphalt or tar. There is a row of 38 2,500-gallon tanks, cabled together, that were placed on the beach for erosion control in the late 1960's. One tank has been confirmed to be leaking, and there is evidence that there may be product leaking in up to 4 additional tanks.

CAUSE OF SPILL: Initial observation indicates corrosion or weathering damage to the buried tanks.

SOURCE CONTROL: The tanks remain on the beach at this time. The source is not controlled.

RESPONSE ACTION: NSB personnel initiated response actions on June 22 by shoveling the tar-like substance into a 55 gallon drum and placing sorbent boom around the tanks. The USCG has 3rd party contractors and USCG responders en route to the spill site. Barricades have been placed around the spill site.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: The spill location is on a beach on the Beaufort Sea that is subject to tidal fluctuations. No oiled or injured wildlife has been reported.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: USCG representatives are en route to visit the site on 6/23/2021 and assist in evaluating the extent of the spill. ADEC will continue working with USCG and NSB to develop plans for site cleanup activities and monitoring for additional environmental impacts.

WEATHER: Today: High 44° F / Low of 35° F. Mostly sunny with 7 mph wind.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

SOSC: Kimberley Maher, DEC

FOSC: Nathan Hatfield, USCG

LOSC: Curt Lemen, North Slope Borough

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberley Maher, Northern Region Manager, ADEC, (907) 451-2124 <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response>



Photo provided by North Slope Borough, 6/22/21



Photo provided by North Slope Borough, 6/22/21



Photo provided by North Slope Borough, 6/23/21

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 T	Senator Donny Olson	Email	senator.donald.olson@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Nome (4/20-1/15)	465-3707 269-0254	465-4821 269-2031
House 40	Representative Josiah Patkotak	Email	Representative.josiah.patkotak@akleg.gov	465-3473	
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Email	todd.nichols@alaska.gov	907-459-7363	

ADNR-DMLW	North Slope Team	Email	DNRDMLW.NorthernO&G@alaska.gov		
ADNR-SAIL	Northern Region Office	Email	dnr.nro.spill@alaska.gov		
USCG-Sector /ANC	USCG-Anchorage	Fax		428-4100	428-4114 (24 hr)
US EPA	Bob Whittier	Fax/Email	whittier.robert@epa.gov	206-553-1263 or 206-553-1264	271-3424
Dept of Law Attorney General Office	Steven Mulder	Fax/Email	steve.mulder@alaska.gov	269-5274	278-7022
Senator Murkowski's Washington DC Office	Chief of Staff	Fax	North Slope only	(202) 224-6665	(202) 224-5301
Senator Murkowski's Fairbanks Office		Fax	North Slope only	456-0233	451-7146
North Slope Borough	Harry K. Brower	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
North Slope Borough	Gordon Brower	Email	Planning Director gordon.brower@north-slope.org	852-0320	