Historic Properties Support Available to On-Scene Coordinators

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Cultural Resources

- Tangible remains of past human activities
- Archaeological sites – prehistoric and historic
- Structures
- Objects (artifacts)
- Cemeteries and burial locations
- Locations with traditional religious and cultural significance
Historic Properties Protection

• **Requirement:** Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

• Compliance with the NHPA is an FOSC responsibility

• The NHPA and the associated Programmatic Agreement uses the term “*historic properties*”:

> Any prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects included in, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
Historic Properties

• Finite, irreplaceable, non-renewable resources that are part of our heritage
Historic Properties

• Historic properties include pre-historic archaeological resources.

• Dealing appropriately with archaeological resources demonstrates respect for the Alaska Native people.

• Most areas in Alaska have not been surveyed.
A spear thrower recovered from an Alaska shoreline, mixed with other beach debris
Historic Properties – Yupik village
Historic Properties – Submerged lands

Japanese ship *Borneo Maru*
Kiska Island
Potential Response Action Impacts

- Physical destruction, injury, or alteration
- Looting of artifacts or vandalism by spill workers
- Contamination resulting in inability to radiocarbon date
Potential Response Action Impacts

- Trampling

- Mechanical recovery on land

- Deploying or removing boom anchors
Potential Response Action Impacts

- Dry tilling
- Beach washing
Potential Response Action Impacts

• Excavation and trenching activities
Potential Response Action Impacts

• Construction of:
  • Temporary roads
  • Worker camps
  • Helipads
  • Staging areas
  • Berms
  • Dikes
Programmatic Agreement

The PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT ON PROTECTION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES DURING EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNDER THE NCP "1997 PA"

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
Programmatic Agreement

• Emergencies occur

• Meet intent of the NHPA by identifying and avoiding impacts to historic properties

• Goal is to minimize impacts *without slowing the response*
Unified Plan

- Introduction
- Operational Administration
- Guidelines for Places of Refuge Decision-Making
- Alaska Regional Response Team Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska
- In Situ Burning Guidelines for Alaska
Alaska Implementation Guidelines:

Annex M (Unified Plan) - Historic Properties Protection for Alaska Federal On-Scene Coordinators

Area/Subarea Plans

- Typically discussed in the Sensitive Areas chapter or section
Potential Places of Refuge

Typical wording:

*Historic properties are found throughout the area*
Geographic Response Strategies

• REPORT any cultural resources found during operations to the FOSC Historic Properties Specialist

• FOSC Historic Properties Specialist should INSPECT site prior to operations

• FOSC Historic Properties Specialist should MONITOR on-site operations
FOSC Decision to Activate a Historic Properties Specialist (HPS)

- Receive spill notification

- FOSC determines if historic properties need to be addressed

- HPS serves as an adviser to the FOSC

- If categorically excluded – activation typically not required
Categorically Excluded Spills

• Pollution does not reach shore or submerged lands

• Responses that avoid land or submerged land disturbance

• Do not affect historic properties (generally older than 50 years)
Categorically Excluded Spills

- Human *constructed* areas – with *no oil migration*. Examples:
  - Gravel pads
  - Artificial islands
  - Roads
  - Drilling pads
  - Existing runways
  - Lined pits
  - Borrow pits
  - Concrete structures
Alaska - Unique Categorical Exclusions

- Alyeska Pipeline Terminal complex
- Fenced areas of Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) pump stations
- Rarely invoked – HPS Activation during TAPS responses (per EPA)
Alaska – Activation of HPS

• If spill/release is not categorically excluded

• Spill is greater than 100,000 gallons

• FOSC determines need even if categorically excluded
Alaska – Activation of HPS

• Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (Office of History and Archaeology - OHA) notifies FOSC that a categorically excluded spill has potential to affect a significant historic property

• Representative of a federally-recognized tribe notifies FOSC that a categorically excluded spill has potential to affect a significant historic property
Historic Properties Specialist - Activation

- FOSC Activates a qualified Historic Properties Specialist (HPS)

- The HPS works for the FOSC and is not contracted by the Responsible Party - compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act is a federal responsibility
Alaska Examples – HPS activation
Notifications - Incident specific

- OHA
- DOI
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Defense
- Federally-recognized tribes
- Alaska Native regional and/or village corporations
- Private landowners
Historic Properties and Cultural Resource expertise

- Alaska OHA
- Tribal and local governments
- Universities and museums
- Federal land management agencies
- Experts under contract to a responsible party
- HPS may convene a technical team to advise the FOSC
Exercises

• Historic properties protection included in drill objectives?

• Will a HPS be activated or simulated?

• HPS present at drill vs. remote support?

• Funding support needed?
Questions?