



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

**CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS SITREP ARE DENOTED IN RED**

## **Shungnak School Tank Heating Oil Release**

**SITREP #:** 3 and Final

**SPILL #:** 20389917201

**DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION:** January 23, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Native Village of Shungnak

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Shungnak School tank farm in Shungnak, Alaska (Lat/Long: 66.887140, -157.135677)

**DATE/TIME OF SPILL:** June 20, 2020, at approximately 12:30pm

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** Onsite personnel discovered overfill when checking the tanks at 1:06 p.m. on June 20, 2020. The Native Village of Shungnak reported the spill at 1:11 p.m.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The spilled product is heating oil that overflowed from Tank #1. The volume of fuel that spilled is estimated at approximately 15,000 gallons. This estimate is based on the total volume pumped from the fuel delivery barge minus the volume of fuel that went into tanks.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The tank was overfilled during a fuel delivery from a barge on the Kobuk River. The fuel delivery was scheduled for the Shungnak Native Store and AVEC tanks located in a different tank farm that shares the same marine header. The fuel delivery pipeline from the marine header is connected to a 3-way valve that directs fuel to two tank farms. The valve was not completely closed in the direction of the school tanks and the fuel entered tank #1 and overflowed.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Source control has been achieved.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** A response crew from Shungnak responded to the spill immediately, removing the spilled heating oil using sorbent material and also by pumping it into containers. After initial notifications, the Field Incident Commander walked the area to determine the extent of the spill and sent response personnel to collect spilled heating oil when identified. An excavator removed contaminated soil in the area near the tank farm and moved contaminated soil off-site to a lined containment area west of town. ADEC conducted a site visit on June 29, 2020, through July 2, 2020 and a contractor completed field investigations in 2020 and 2021. The contractor's 2021 field report confirms downhill contamination migration toward the river, but subsequent sampling and field investigations do not indicate that drinking water or groundwater has been affected as of 2021. The contaminated soil stockpiles were due to be removed, but the responsible party has not done so, nor has the spill site been properly managed. As a result of continually unmet response actions, this site has been transferred to ADEC Contaminated Sites for ongoing management.



**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** The Kobuk River and drinking water well that serves the population of Shungnak are potential resources at risk. The extent of contamination has been reported by the Incident Commander to be approximately 145 feet from the Kobuk River and approximately 280 feet from the Shungnak drinking water source. The Kobuk River is listed as an anadromous stream in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's stream inventory. There have been no reports of impacts to wildlife or the shoreline.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Due to ongoing management, this site has been transferred to the ADEC Contaminated Sites Program. The ADEC Contaminated Sites Program will continue to monitor the response actions and review plans being developed to clean up contaminated soils from the area and prevent heating oil migration to nearby resources. Clean up updates can be found online at:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/SPAR/PublicMVC/CSP/SiteReport/27821>

**WEATHER:** Today: Cloudy. High 2°F with winds S at 4 mph. Tonight low around 0°F and winds light and variable. Chance of snow 54%

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Evelyn Woods, Native Village of Shungnak

SOSC: Kimberley Maher, ADEC

FOSC: Bob Whittier, EPA

**DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** This is the final report.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kimberley Maher, SOSC, ADEC (907) 451-2124

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



Photo 1: Spill site; looking northeast. (Photo: Tanana Commercial, July 15, 2021)





Photo 2: Spill site and contaminated soil stockpile; looking southwest. (Photo: Tanana Commercial, July 15, 2021)

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed June 23, 2020, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.