



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

[North Slope, AK]

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

## 2026 WNS Rig Move Incident

**SITREP #:** 2

**SPILL #:** 26399902301

**DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION:** January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.  
Information current as of January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Doyon Drilling, Inc. (DDI)

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Western North Slope (WNS) adjacent to a gravel road about 6.5 miles northwest of Nuiqsut. GPS coordinates: 70.303724, -151.145293

**DATE/TIME OF SPILL:** January 23, 2026, at 4:40 p.m.

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** During a rig move along a gravel road, the Rig 26 self-propelled drilling module left the road and toppled onto the tundra.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** According to the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) for Rig 26, the maximum potential product on board was 8,400 gallons of diesel, 1,930 gallons hydraulic oil, and 85 gallons of ethylene glycol. Because diesel was used to fuel the rig's mobilization, it is estimated that a significant portion of the diesel had been consumed prior to Rig 26 leaving the roadway. Fuel volumes in the diesel tanks were measured approximately 30 minutes prior to the incident indicating that approximately 4,000 gallons were on board. Evidence of a diesel spill has been confirmed by emergency responders; however, further assessments are in progress. **Visual inspections conducted since the last SITREP indicate revised estimated volumes released to be approximately 4,000 gallons of diesel and 600 gallons of hydraulic oil. Ethylene glycol tanks appear structurally intact, though minor leaks cannot be ruled out at this time.**

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The cause of the accident is unknown. Investigation will begin when safe to do so. **DDI will engage a third-party firm to conduct a full investigation of the incident.**

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Source control is being determined. No ongoing leaks are observed.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The response continues to prioritize the safety of all personnel first and foremost. Minor injuries were reported with eight personnel treated on the North Slope and released. Initial response actions were taken to address a fire onboard Rig 26. The site was released by the on-scene Fire Chief Saturday at 3:45 p.m., though structural hazards continue to limit access. A safety team has been dispatched to evaluate concerns. **Initial delineation of the spill area was conducted using visual, infrared, and aerial methods. Where safe to do so, sandbags were placed to minimize migration of diesel. Operations are currently on hold due to**



unsafe weather conditions. Plans have been developed for additional containment and recovery tactics to be deployed, as weather permits.

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** The drilling module landed on tundra covered in 12 to 24 inches of snow. The closest oil and gas infrastructure is located approximately 50 feet away and was not impacted. Based on available maps, the site is less than 500 feet of a tributary to the Necholek Channel of the Colville River. The spill area lies within critical habitat for denning and non-denning polar bears and habitat for caribou, Arctic fox, muskox, and ptarmigan, but no impacts to wildlife have been reported. **There remains no direct threat to the community, and no traffic concerns at this time.** No pipeline infrastructure was impacted by the incident and no wildlife impacts have been observed or reported.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

As safety allows and weather permits, spilled products will continue to be identified, delineated, and addressed. Standardized tactics from published spill response tactic manuals will be used, including deploying snow fences to contain oiled snow, flushing the area with water, and recovery of liquid by direction suction.

**WEATHER:** Today: 0°F with sustained east winds at 31 mph, blowing snow.

Tomorrow: 0°F with sustained east winds at 11 mph, blowing snow.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Andrew Honea, Doyon Drilling, Inc.

SOSC: Kimberley Maher, DEC

FOSC: Torri Huelskoetter, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

LOSC: Chastity Olemaun, North Slope Borough (NSB)

TOSC: Stephanie Nelson, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS)

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kimberley Maher, Regional Manager, DEC (907) 451-2124

[\[https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/\]](https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/)



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Thermal image from January 24th, 2026, provided courtesy of Doyon Drilling, Inc.

Alaska Clean Seas completed mapping and surveillance of spill on land. Aerial imagery was collected via unmanned aircraft system flights utilizing electro-optical and thermal infrared sensors. This imagery was used to verify the results of delineation and to generate orthomosaic maps depicting the delineated area and providing calculated estimates of impacted tundra.

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.