

## Department of Environmental Conservation Spring 2026 Typhoon Halong Recovery Activities

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will continue coordinated spring and summer 2026 recovery actions in communities impacted by Typhoon Halong, with a focus on environmental clean-up to the impacted tundra and waterways, protecting public health, and returning essential water, sanitation, and fuel systems to pre-storm conditions. Through integrated efforts across the Divisions of Spill Prevention and Response, Environmental Health, and Water, the DEC will provide targeted field deployments, remote technical assistance, contractor-supported recovery, and administrative coordination to support safe reoccupation of communities and long-term system stability. The total DEC resource need for FY2026 for ongoing Typhoon Halong recovery activities as of February 11, 2026, is estimated to be approximately \$1.2 million. These numbers, and the associated work, are subject to change based on real time costs and conditions.

### Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR)

In October and November 2025, SPAR had 10 staff conducting community-by-community assessments for oil and hazardous material releases from hubs in Bethel and Nome. Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR) staff visited 21 communities and shipped over 2,500 pounds of spill cleanup supplies to Western Alaska over a roughly three-week period. During fall field work, spills were confirmed in nine communities with no new spills related to the storm reported since early November 2025.

**Table 1. Summary of Fall 2025 SPAR Community Spill Assessments Results**

Community	Summary of Fall 2025 Spill Assessments
Chefornak	No reported interruptions or spills from tank farm. No reported home heating oil tank spills. One confirmed spill at man camp, estimated 20-50 gallons of diesel.
Kipnuk	A United States Coast Guard (USCG) hired contractor in October 2025 addressed damaged fuel tanks and secured small storage oil and oil product containers. During 2026, SPAR is preparing to address additional heating oil tanks and containers in debris field, consolidate and secure storage and disposition of recovered fluids, and assess soil contamination in the community.
Kongiganak	Fuel was released from an inactive cross-town fuel transfer pipe for the community teacher housing heating oil tank. Spill volume is unknown but approximately 800 gallons of fuel was recovered from the piping segment while patching the piping breach. Limited cleanup at the spill site was accomplished and surface survey was inconclusive due to frozen ground conditions. During 2026, SPAR is preparing to conduct comprehensive investigations throughout the community for storm damaged home heating oil tanks, evaluate oil spill sites, conduct home indoor air quality assessments when necessary, and evaluate scattered hazardous materials posing significant health and environmental challenges in the community.
Kotzebue	Single spill report associated from the storm received by SPAR. No other damage identified during the October community assessment.
Kwigillingok	SPAR hired a response contractor in October 2025 for damaged fuel tank assessments, fuel recovery, and securing scattered portable fuel containers. During 2026, SPAR is preparing to handle disposal of the 200 gallons of fuel

	<p>recovered by the contractor in 2025. SPAR is also preparing to conduct comprehensive investigations throughout the community for storm-damaged home heating oil tanks in debris fields, evaluate oil spill sites for soil cleanup needs, conduct home indoor air quality assessments when necessary, and evaluate scattered hazardous materials in debris fields posing significant health and environmental challenges in the community.</p>
Napakiak	<p>SPAR survey team found storm damage on many of the residential heating oil tanks. Initial cleanup actions were also initiated for two used oil spills. During 2026, SPAR is preparing to conduct comprehensive investigations throughout the community for functionality of storm damaged oil tanks, evaluate known oil spill site cleanup and cleanup needs, conduct home indoor air quality assessments when necessary, and evaluate scattered hazardous materials remaining that poses significant health and environmental challenges in the community.</p>
Napaskiak	<p>SPAR survey team found many residents had their heating oil tanks back in working order in October 2025. There was one home that had a fuel line break inside the home. SPAR team was unable to verify and complete indoor air quality assessment at that home. SPAR team initiated an investigation of a large spill near the City Office. Spill site assessment was limited by fresh snow accumulation. During 2026, SPAR is preparing to conduct comprehensive investigations throughout the community for functionality of storm damaged oil tanks, evaluate known oil spill site cleanup and cleanup needs, conduct home indoor air quality assessments when necessary, and evaluate scattered hazardous materials remaining that poses significant health and environmental challenges in the community.</p>
Nightmute	<p>The USCG lead the initial response operations in Nightmute in 2025. At least eight structures needed their heating oil tanks restored. Approximately 1,000 gallons of residual diesel fuel was recovered from the old bulk tank farm tanks. Twenty-four drums of used oil were also recovered. Community reported 15-18 homes unoccupiable due to excessive fuel vapors from heating oil spills on the properties. Indoor air quality evaluations were limited by flooding impacts beyond any potential fuel impacts. During 2026, SPAR is preparing to conduct comprehensive investigations throughout the community for functionality of storm damaged oil tanks, evaluate known oil spill site cleanup and cleanup needs, conduct home indoor air quality assessments when necessary, and evaluate scattered hazardous materials remaining that poses significant health and environmental challenges in the community.</p>
Tuntutuliak	<p>An estimated 2,000 gallons of waste oil spilled from the community service station. Community leaders reported the oil release was flushed out with the receding storm surge and only residual oil sheening remained. The USCG and their contractor conducted a site visit in the fall of 2025 and found no recoverable fuel.</p>

The Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) will conduct spring 2026 follow-on response and recovery actions related to the October 2025 West Coast Storm impacts to coastal and western Alaska communities. Activities will focus on fuel-related hazards, hazardous materials, and protection of human health and the environment during breakup and early summer conditions.

**Program Areas and Planned Activities are as follows:**

**1. Field Deployment and Community Response**

**Priorities:**

- Address fuel-related hazards and hazardous materials resulting from storm damage
- Support communities during breakup conditions

**Key Activities:**

- Deploy two SPAR teams to Bethel
- Backhaul waste oil collected and wintered in Kipnuk, Nightmute, and Kwigillingok
- Evaluate storm-damaged fuel tanks not surveyed in October 2025
- Respond to reports of oil, oil sheen, and fuel odors
- Assess the need for remediation or removal of contaminated soil
- Conduct indoor air quality assessments for fuel vapor concerns when requested
- Recover and backhaul displaced fuel/oil drums and small portable fuel tanks
- Evaluate scattered hazardous materials not previously surveyed
- Restore pre-disaster function of residential heating oil tanks and piping systems, including voluntary design improvements not required by code

**2. Spring Cleanup Kits**

**Priorities:**

Provide communities with materials needed to address residual fuel and hazardous material issues

**Key Activities:**

- Purchase and ship spring cleanup kits to Kipnuk, Nightmute, Kwigillingok, and Kongiganak
- Coordinate additional kit shipments as requested
- Each kit will include absorbent materials, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), waste containers, and response supplies, with smart ash burners staged in Bethel for mobilization as needed

**3. Contractor-Supported Response and Recovery**

**Priorities:**

- Utilize contractors to efficiently address specialized response and recovery tasks

**Key Activities:**

- Coordinate one or more SPAR contracts as needed
- Integrate contractor work with other State agency efforts

Restoration of residential heating oil systems will require a separate contract outside the SPAR emergency response term contract.

**4. Administrative and Coordination Support**

**Key Activities:**

- Supervisory and logistical support for deployed staff
- Assignment of gear and response supplies
- Scientific and Geographic Information System (GIS) support
- Purchasing, shipping, and administrative coordination

**Total Spill Prevention and Response Estimated Costs: \$990,000**

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**Division of Environmental Health (EH)**

The Division of Environmental Health (EH) will continue spring and summer 2026 recovery activities in communities impacted by Typhoon Halong through a combination of remote technical assistance and targeted field deployment. Efforts will focus on protecting public health, supporting safe reoccupation, and stabilizing essential services while maintaining statewide operations.

**Program Areas and Planned Activities are as follows:**

**1. Food Safety and Sanitation (FSS)**

**Priorities:**

- Support safe reopening of food establishments, schools, and school food service operations

**Key Activities:**

- Coordinate facility reopening with local operators, schools, and tribal partners
- Conduct virtual environmental assessments of permitted food establishments and schools
- Provide written and verbal guidance on food safety protocols, disposal of contaminated products, and reopening procedures

**2. Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV)**

**Priorities:**

- Complete animal reunification and recovery efforts
- Support families returning to villages with pets
- Improve disaster preparedness for pets and livestock

**Key Activities:**

- Support non-profits and shelters providing long-term fostering and reunification
- Coordinate recommendations for partners supporting pet returns
- Support safe transport of pets to home communities
- Coordinate supplies such as food and shelter for animals returning to villages

**3. Solid Waste Program (SWP)**

**Priorities:**

- Support debris management and landfill access following storm damage
- Assist communities with disposal facility permitting and authorizations

**Key Activities:**

- Assist with landfill expansion, access improvements, and one-time use facilities
- Conduct outreach to identify debris management unmet needs
- Perform post-breakup field visits to communities with significant debris challenges
- Coordinate with the State Emergency Operations Center, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, contractors, and funding agencies

**4. Drinking Water Program (DWP)**

**Priorities:**

- Support stabilization and recovery of drinking water systems
- Provide compliance and technical assistance

**Key Activities:**

- Coordinate with Village Safe Water, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Remote Maintenance Workers, and the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC)
- Provide technical assistance for construction approvals and operations
- Assist systems with updated sampling siting plans
- Review required sanitary surveys conducted by the YKHC
- Support planning for future infrastructure improvements

**5. Director's Office Administrative Support**

**Key Activities:**

- Personnel support and guidance
- Travel coordination and documentation
- Expenditure tracking and accounting
- Reimbursable Services Agreements support

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**Total Environmental Health Estimated Costs: \$46,000**

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**Division of Water**

The Division of Water will continue follow-on recovery activities related to Typhoon Halong throughout summer / early fall 2026. Efforts focus on restoring and maintaining drinking water and sanitation systems, validating completed repairs, and supporting operators in impacted communities. The division anticipates ongoing personal services costs associated with engineering, facilities management, and RMW support. Six trips are anticipated to complete assessments and coordination activities. Contractual expenses include travel administrative fees, supplies needed for community projects, and division administrative support expenses.

**Program Areas and Planned Activities are as follows:**

**1. Village Safe Water (VSW)**

**Key Activities:**

- Manage ongoing sanitation repairs and coordinate with partner agencies
- Conduct on-site assessments to verify drinking water and sewer system functionality
- Validate that contracted cleanup and repair work does not pose human health hazards
- Identify additional work needed to restore systems to pre-storm conditions

Priority reassessment communities include Chefornak and Kongiganak.

**2. Remote Maintenance Workers (RMW)**

**Key Activities:**

- Provide on-site and remote technical assistance to village operators
- Identify outstanding unmet needs and repair effectiveness
- Inspect systems and report on operational status and community needs

**3. Programmatic Readiness**

- Management of personnel and meeting attendance
- Ensure field personnel have appropriate PPE, communications equipment, and professional gear
- Finalize a division communication device plan for emergency response
- Identify and train additional emergency responders outside the RMW program

**4. Director's Office Administrative Support**

**Key Activities:**

- Personnel support and guidance
- Travel coordination and documentation

- Expenditure tracking and accounting
- Reimbursable Service Agreement support

**Total Division of Water Estimated Costs: \$150,000**

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This consolidated document presents division-level spring and summer 2026 Typhoon Halong recovery activities to support coordinated review and approval through the State Emergency Operations Center.