

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: NPS Radioactive Containers

SITREP #: 1 revised

SPILL NUMBER: 05389927201

LEDGER CODE: Not Requested

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The suspect containers were suspected of being radioactive at approximately 4:00 PM on September 29, 2005. The National Park Service contacted the ADEC as soon as the presence of radioactivity was discovered by NPS maintenance personnel.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 4:00 PM September 30, 2005.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 10:00 AM October 3, 2005.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: At least 32 lead containers were counted before the team began to suspect the presence of radioactivity and evacuated the structure. The containers are made of lead and those that were open were found to be empty. Some containers were labeled as having once contained radioactive isotopes.

LOCATION: The containers were found in the crawlspace below the house at Tract A, Lot 3, Block 11 in Kotzebue.

CAUSE OF SPILL: It appears that a previous resident of the house stored the containers in the crawl space under the house and abandoned them. The source of the containers is being investigated.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): The National Park Service (NPS) is the property owner.

RESPONSE ACTION: The NPS ceased work on the house and removed all personnel until a proper plan can be prepared and implemented. Currently the entire building is empty and locked. No access is permitted.

NPS contacted the ADEC immediately and has been working together. NPS also contacted nuclear waste specialists at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The site is now secured, and will be characterized as soon as that can be done safely.

SOURCE CONTROL: The containers are made of lead and are in the crawl space under the house. Source control is not an issue because the containers appear stable. Radioactivity exposure is being mitigated by keeping personnel and the public away from the source area.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Unknown at this time. A formal assessment will have to be performed by qualified nuclear waste specialists.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: NPS is attempting to identify and possibly mobilize a team of specialists in handling radioactive waste and assessing health risk from exposure. The chief of the Radiological Health Program for the State of Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services, Clyde Pearce, is traveling to the site Tuesday, October 4, 2005 to assess the situation. NPS is planning to work on the clean up, removal and disposal of the radioactive waste as soon as possible. They are also working on a plan to assess the exposure of previous residents of the house and the public.

WEATHER: Partly cloudy, 30° F, winds out of the north at 15 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Jan Maslen, National Park Service
 S.O.S.C. : Ed Meggert, ADEC
 Field S.O.S.C.: Toivo Luick, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Toivo Luick, ADEC, Fairbanks, (907) 451-2102.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

Agency/Organization	Name	Sent via	Additional Info	Telephone	FAX
ADNR	Leon Lynch/ Gary Schultz	Fax		451-2724/ 451-2732	451-2751
ADNR (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459-7279	456-3091
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Fax		459-7363	456-2259
USCG	Cpt. Mark DeVries	Fax		271-6700/6708	271-6751
USEPA	Matt Carr/ Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-5083 or 257-1342	271-3424
DHSS (Commissioner)	Joel Gilbertson	Fax		465-1614	465-3068
DHSS (Radiological Health)	Clyde Pearce	Fax		334-2107	334-2161
DOI	Doug Mutter/Pamela Bergmann	Fax		(907) 271-5011	271-4102
Legislature					
Governor's Office (Fairbanks)	Cheri Solie, Director/ Melissa Stepovich-Cook, Angelina Burney, Assist	Fax		451-2920	451-2858
Legislator (Senate T)	Donnie Olson (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3707	465-4821
Legislator (House 40)	Reggie Joule (D)	Fax	Kotzebue	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586
Other Agencies:					
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Pete Wallace	Fax		452-8251 x 3433	459-3989
North West Arctic Borough	Roswell Schaeffer, Sr.	Fax	Mayor	442-2500	442-2930