

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** NPS Radioactive Containers

**SITREP #:** 2

**SPILL NUMBER:** 05389927201

**LEDGER CODE:** Not Requested

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The 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:** 10:00 AM October 3, 2005.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 11:00 AM October 5, 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 has ceased work on the house and secured the building from access. Currently the entire building is empty and locked. No access is permitted.

NPS contacted the ADEC immediately. NPS, ADEC, and the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) are coordinating to ensure the site is adequately and safely characterized.

**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:** 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 the site assessment/characterization is complete. Based upon this characterization, assessment of the exposure to previous residents of the house and the public will be performed.

**WEATHER:** Fog, 29° F, winds out of the east at 5 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.

<b>Agency Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sent via</b>	<b>Additional Info</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>FAX</b>
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
<b>Legislature</b>					
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
<b>Other Agencies:</b>					
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



Lead containers discovered in Kotzebue. Photo courtesy of National Park Service.