## SITUATION REPORT

**INCIDENT NAME:** Valdez Petro Star Refinery Fire  
**SITREP #:** 3 and Final

**SPILL NUMBER:** 08229936301  
**LEDGER CODE:** 14123560

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** 10:45 P.M. December 28, 2008

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 12:00 P.M. January 6, 2009

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** This is the final SITREP for this incident.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** During the initial site assessment on December 29th, it was estimated that about 200 gallons of Alaska North Slope (ANS) crude oil was released as a result of the fire at the refinery. In addition, approximately 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of water used in the firefighting effort was slightly contaminated with oil. Based on subsequent site assessments, it has been determined that an estimated 1000 gallons of propylene glycol was also released. Nearly all of this propylene glycol is locked up in the ice that has been scraped up and stockpiled on site.

**LOCATION:** Valdez Petro Star Refinery, 2.5 Mile Dayville Road, Valdez, AK

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** A fire in the refractory tower at the refinery. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Petro Star, Inc.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The Alaska Chadux Corp. response crew has continued to clean up crude oil, glycol, and oily firewater ice outside the process unit of the refinery. An excavator and a loader were utilized to scrape up the firewater ice that was contaminated with crude oil, glycol, and aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF). A large snow melter was brought in and is being used to melt the contaminated ice so the water can be decanted to collect the oil. So far, approximately 30 cubic yards of snow/ice have been processed. The decanted water is being hauled to the Valdez wastewater plant for final treatment. Access to the process unit is being restricted until the fire investigation is completed. Once accessed is allowed, refinery workers will begin cleaning up in that area, assisted by a Chadux crew for handling of the oily waste.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The fire was extinguished by a combined Petro Star Fire Team, Valdez Fire Dept., and Alyeska Marine Terminal Fire Team. The fire was extinguished at 12:40 A.M. on December 29, 2008. The entire process area was isolated from energy sources and a work plan is being developed to safely remove all of the remaining hydrocarbons in the system. When that is completed workers can begin dismantling the plant and preparing it for rebuilding.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Very strong winds continue to scour the site and downwind snow areas. A location was found where firewater appeared to have escaped the perimeter dike at a drain. However testing indicated the oil content was minimal and within regulatory limits.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Alaska Chadux will remain on site to assist the refinery crews with handling of oily waste. The snow/ice melting operation will continue until all of the firewater ice has been processed. After the process unit is released for access, cleanup will continue in that area. Most of the emergency work is completed and the rest of the work is moving into a project phase.

**WEATHER:** Bitterly cold weather continues with 20 to 40 mph winds and gusts to 60 mph. Temperature remains in the single digits over night and up into the low teens during the day.
**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Mike Simms, Petro Star  
F.O.S.C.: CDR Darrel Verfaillie, USCG  
S.O.S.C.: Gary Folley  
Field S.O.S.C.: John W. Engles

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** John W. Engles at 835-4698, or Gary Folley at 262-5210, x234.

---

**AGENCY** | **NAME** | **Sent Via** | **Telephone** | **Facsimile**  
---|---|---|---|---  
USCG-MSU/Valdez | CDR. Valdez-office | Fax | 835-7210 | 835-7207  
US EPA | Matt Carr | Fax | 271-5083 | 271-3424  
USDA Forest Service | Ken Vaughan Deputy Director of Engineering and Aviation Management | Email/fax | KVaughan@fs.fed.us | 586-8789 | 586-7555  
USDA Forest Service | Gerry Xavier Engineering Staff Officer, Chugach National Forest | Email/fax | GXavier@fs.fed.us | 743-9544 | 743-9476  
OTHER  
PWSRCAC | John Devens | Fax | 834-5000 | 835-5926  
CIRCAC | Mike Munger | Fax/Email | munger@circac.org | 283-7222 | 283-6102  
Mayor of Cordova | Mayor’s Office | Fax | 424-6200 | 424-6000  
Mayor of Valdez | Mayor’s Office | Fax | 835-8850 | 835-4893  
Senate F/ Fairbanks | Gene Therriault | Fax | 465-4797 | 465-3884  
House 35/Valdez | John Harris | Fax | 269-0129 | 269-0128  
| | | | | 465-4859 | 465-3799

---

The snow/ice melting operation with the refinery in the background. ADEC created panorama.