Press Release

Unified Command LPC-LO3 Pipeline Spill
Joint Information Center
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Dec. 2, 2009 @ 2:00PM

Update: Oil misted snow removed from two-thirds of site

(Anchorage, Alaska) Spill responders, who have been working around the clock since Sunday, have removed 80 cubic yards of oil-misted snow from the spill site. Oil-misted snow from approximately one-half of an acre has been collected. The remaining one-quarter of an acre contains a mixture of oil, processed water and gas.

Work is ongoing to complete a nearby holding and disposal site for the contaminated material.

As a safety precaution, workers Tuesday strapped the 18-inch line to its pipe frame. As a result, responders are now able to access areas around the pipe for limited periods of time, but the 10-foot safety zone remains around it, due to hazards presented by possible pressure in the line.

An overflight using infra-red FLIR technology to determine changes in the spill occurred at this morning. Images from that overflight are expected to be posted to the Unified Command website later today.

The spill came from an 18-inch above-ground flow line that normally carries combined oil, water and natural gas from drill pad L-3 to the Lisburne Processing Center. It was discovered by a BP oilfield employee during regular inspection rounds about 3 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 29.

Visual inspections indicated the leak had stopped or slowed to a very small rate.

The cause of the spill has not been determined and is under investigation.

Editor’s note: Photos and a map are available on the Unified Command website.
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/lisburne

On-camera interviews in Anchorage available upon request.

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