

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Tug Pathfinder Grounding

SITREP #: 2

SPILL NUMBER: 09229935701

LEDGER CODE: 14282260

TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT: The grounding of the Tug Pathfinder was reported to the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) Vessel Traffic System in Prince William Sound at 6:15 PM on December 23, 2009. USCG reported the grounding to ADEC at 7:52 PM on December 23, 2009.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:00 PM on December 24, 2009

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 1:00 PM on December 25, 2009

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The amount spilled is currently unknown. The vessel had approximately 100,000 gallons of diesel on board at the time of the grounding. Three of the tug's diesel tanks were breached: one from the port (1P) side and two from the centerline (2C and 3C). Tank 1P did not contain any fuel and Tanks 2C and 3C contained 10,000 and 23,540 gallons of diesel fuel, respectively, at the time of grounding.

LOCATION: The grounding occurred on Bligh Reef, Prince William Sound, Alaska (60° 50.39' N, 146° 52.94' W).

CAUSE OF SPILL: The 136-foot tug had completed an ice survey and was headed back to port at the time of the grounding. The cause of the grounding is unknown at this time and is being investigated by USCG and ADEC.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Crowley Maritime Corporation (Crowley), Seattle, WA

RESPONSE ACTIONS: The underwater survey, completed at 4:30 AM on December 24, 2009, revealed that the tug suffered extensive damage, including a 4- to 5-foot section missing from the keel.

Two over-flights were conducted today. The first over-flight was conducted by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company at approximately 11:00 AM and a second over-flight was conducted by USCG at 12:40 PM. An ADEC responder was on board the second over-flight and observed the following:

- USCG Cutter Long Island, response tug Alert, and two fishing vessels were on scene with the Tug Pathfinder.
- Light sheen, approximately 50 yards in width and three-quarter of a mile long, was observed near Glacier Island.
- Oil recovery vessel Valdez Star was deployed to the Glacier Island area to skim any fuel on water.
- The utility vessel Endurance is anchored near Bligh Island to provide support to the Valdez Star.
- No sheen was observed around the Tug Pathfinder.

The Tug Pathfinder's main engine is inoperable. The boom around the vessel will remain deployed until it can be moved to another location for repair and assessment. The salvage and towing plan is under development jointly by Crowley, Titan Salvage, and USCG.

Crowley is currently developing a fuel transfer plan to transfer any remaining fuel from tanks 2C and 3C.

Two ADEC Marine Vessel staff from the Valdez office are at the Incident Command Post established at the Crowley office. Three ADEC Response staff are enroute to Valdez to monitor the spill response and cleanup actions.

SOURCE CONTROL: Containment boom is deployed around the vessel. The pressure of the sea water under the vessel's hull is preventing further release of the fuel from the tug. Equipment is being mobilized to remove fuel from the breached fuel tanks.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Marine waters of Prince William Sound. No oiled wildlife has been observed.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Develop plans for fuel transfer and salvage/towing. Another over-flight will be conducted when the vessel is moved from its current location. Continue to recover any oil in the Glacier Island area.

WEATHER: Today: Cloudy. A chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs in the mid to upper 30°F except in the upper 20°F through the pass. Variable winds to 10 mph. Tonight: Snow likely in the evening then snow and rain after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 3 inches. Lows in the upper 20°F to lower 30°F except around 25°F through the pass. Variable wind 10 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL

Incident Commander: Walt Teague (Crowley)
F.O.S.C: Erin Williams, Commander (USCG)
S.O.S.C: Gary Folley (ADEC)

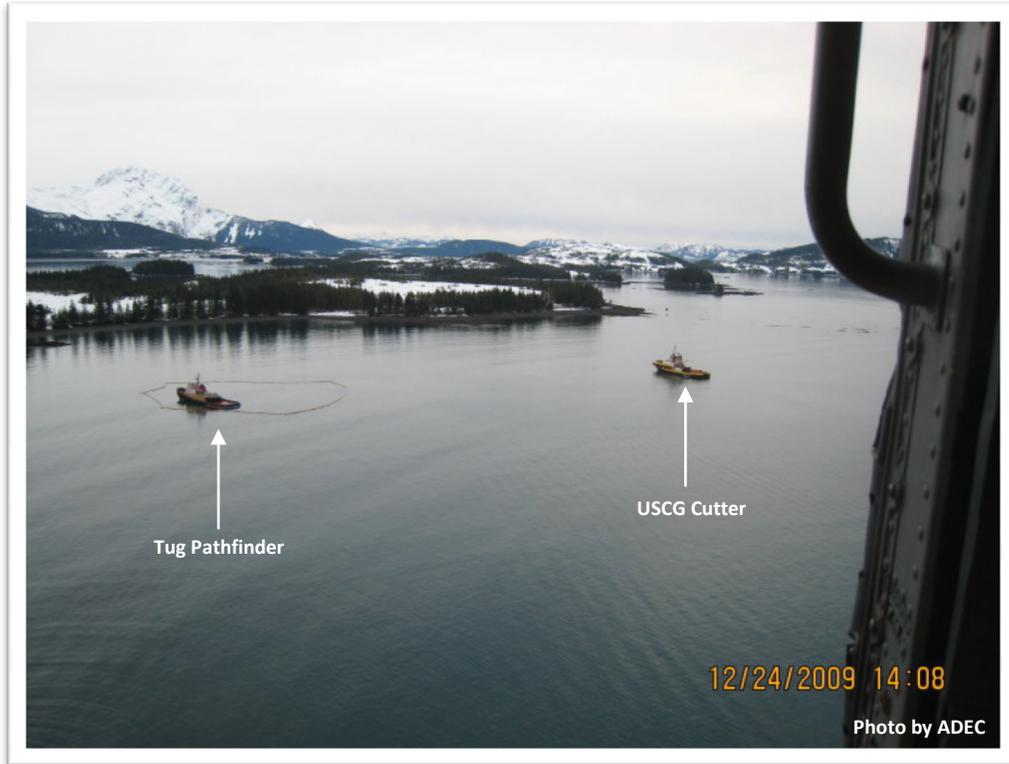
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Folley, ADEC (907) 262-5210 ext. 234

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum_fy10/091223201/091223201_index.htm

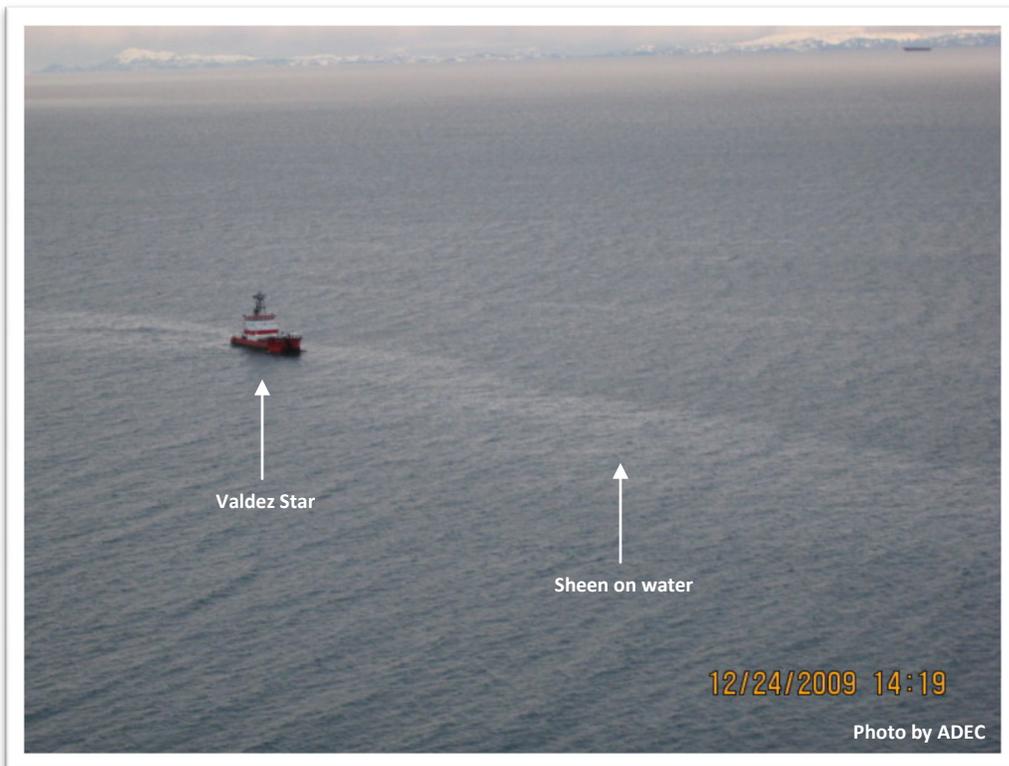
AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The sitrep was also distributed to the various agency staff listed on the standard distribution list. The receiving agencies listed in the standard distribution list includes: Governor's office, Senator Begich's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFO	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE
USCG-MSU Valdez	CDR Valdez office	Fax		835-7210	835-7207
US EPA	Carl Lautenberger	Fax		257-1342	271-3424
USDA Forest Service	Ken Vaughan	Email/Fax	kvaughan@fs.fed.us	586-8789	586-7555
USDA Forest Service	Gary Xavier	Email/Fax	gxavier@fs.fed.us	743-9544	743-9476
PWS/RCAC		Fax		277-7222	277-4523
CIRCAC	Mike Munger	Email/Fax	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		835-4313	835-2992
House 35/Valdez	John Harris	Fax	Juneau	465-4859	465-3799
Senate F/Fairbanks	Gene Therriault	Fax	Juneau	465-4797	465-3884
Governor's Office	Ward Hinger	Email	ward.hinger@alaska.gov		



Containment boom deployed around the Tug Pathfinder. USCG Cutter Long Island on the right.



Oil recovery vessel Valdez Star skimming for any recoverable fuel near Glacier Island area.