

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Fort Knox Gold Mine Cyanide Water Spill

SITREP #: 1

SPILL NUMBER: 10309912402

LEDGER CODE: Requested

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The spill occurred at approximately 8:30 PM on May 4, 2010. Fort Knox Gold Mine notified ADEC via the Alaska State Troopers at approximately 9:49 PM on May 4, 2010.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 4:30 PM on May 5, 2010.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 3:00 PM on May 12, 2010.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The process water spill occurred within the ore processing facility. Fort Knox estimates the amount spilled at 305,370 gallons. Approximately 270,000 to 275,000 gallons remained within the building, while the remaining 30,000 to 35,000 gallons spilled onto the gravel roadway and parking area.

LOCATION: Fort Knox Gold Mine, Fairbanks, Alaska.

CAUSE OF SPILL: Failure of the automated process control system.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Fort Knox Gold Mine

RESPONSE ACTION: Approximately 15 responders at Fort Knox deployed portable pumps to collect and remove process water from the processing facility's secondary containment. Topographic low areas of the gravel pad that collected fluids were pumped and fluids returned to the mill for reuse. The process water contains a low concentration of sodium cyanide at a controlled pH, and does not present an inhalation hazard to responders according to mine officials. The spill area has been identified, access controlled, and earthen containment established to prevent migration. Contaminated soils will be excavated and hauled by truck for placement at the heap leach for reprocessing.

SOURCE CONTROL: Pumps were manually shut down, and the source is controlled.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Fort Knox estimates that approximately 2 acres of gravel road and the parking area were affected.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC personnel will continue to monitor Fort Knox cleanup actions on site and approve sampling and work plans. A root cause investigation has been initiated.

WEATHER: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Highs 40-45. Northwest winds at 10 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Delbert Parr, Fort Knox
S.O.S.C.: John Ebel, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Lhotka, ADEC, (907) 451-2175.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The situation report 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	FAX
Alaska State Troopers	Fairbanks	Fax		451-5100 or (800) 478-9300	451-5165
ADNR	Gary Schultz/ Melissa Head/ Sean Willison	Fax		451-2732/ 451-2719/ 451-2724	451-2751 or 659-2965
AF&G (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459- 7279	459-7303
EPA	Matt Carr/Robert Whittier	Fax		271-5083 or 271- 3247	271-6340
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Steve Mulder	Fax		451-2811/451-2914	451-2985/ 278-7022
Governor's Office (Fairbanks)	Parnell/Campbell	Fax		451-2920	451-2858
Lt. Governor's Office (Juneau)	Parnell/Campbell	Fax			465-5400
Legislator (Senate D)	Joe Thomas (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-2327	465-5241 or 456-8163
Legislator (Senate E)	Joe Paskvan (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3709	465-4714
Legislator (Senate F)	John Coghill, Jr. (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-4797 or (800) 860-4797	465-3884
Legislator (House 7)	Michael "Mike" Kelly (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4976 or (800) 465-4976	465-3883 or 452-6096
Legislator (House 8)	David Guttenberg(D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4457 or (800) 928-4457	465-3519 or 456-2490
Legislator (House 9)	Scott Kawasaki (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3466 or (866) 465-3466	465-2937 or 451-9293
Legislator (House 10)	Jay Ramras (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3004 or (877) 465-3004	465-2070
Legislator (House 11)	Tammie Wilson. (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-3719 or (877) 465-3719	465-3258 or 488-4271
Legislator (House 12)	John Harris (R)	Fax	Valdez	269-0129	269-0128
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Luke Hopkins	Fax	Mayor	459-1304	459-1102
City of Fairbanks	Terry Strle	Fax	Mayor	459-6793	459-6787
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Jerry Isaac	Fax	President	452-8251 x 3433	459-3989



Photo of heavy equipment removing contaminated soils from gravel pad outside processing facility.