

Incident Name: Pump Station 1 Booster Pump Piping Incident

Source: Joint Information Center

Contact: Mark MacIntyre, JIC PIO, 907-450-5857

Web site: www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1

FACT SHEET NUMBER: 8

Jan. 15, 2011, at 12:00 p.m.

(New information underlined)

- The Unified Command's primary goal is to safely return the pipeline to full service while protecting people and the environment. The Unified Command is comprised of federal, state and Alyeska representatives.
- There is no known harm to the environment or wildlife due to this incident.

Current status:

- The Trans Alaska Pipeline System shut down shortly after 12:00 a.m. on Jan. 15, as scheduled, to install the bypass pipeline at Pump Station 1. Officials expect the shutdown will last 36 hours. This time is tentative and may change.
- With the main pipeline shut down for bypass installation and the system depressurized, the booster pump building pipeline leak has stopped.
- Oil storage tanks at Prudhoe Bay will hold incoming oil during the shutdown. Each tank can hold 210,000 barrels, for a total of 420,000 barrels.
- The North Slope oil fields are expected to continue operating at approximately 24 percent of normal production levels throughout the shutdown period.
- The total recovery estimate from Pump Station 1 from when the leak was detected on Jan. 8 is about 317 barrels of oil, or 13,326 gallons. On-site vacuum trucks removed the oil from the pump station around the clock.
- Two minor first aid injuries have been reported. On Jan. 13, a driver at Pump Station 4 injured his head while checking the brakes on a trailer. He received first aid treatment from on-site medics and resumed work. On Jan. 14, a worker in the Fairbanks Fabrication Facility injured his finger while working on a segment of the bypass pipeline, received first aid treatment and returned to work. The safety of responders, the public and the environment remains the top priority of the Unified Command.
- Both cleaning devices in the pipeline, called PIGS, arrived at their destinations at Pump Station 8 and the Valdez terminal on Jan. 14.
- To date, no oil has been discovered outside the building.
- There are more than 550 people responding to the incident, including more than 335 people at Pump Station 1.
 - Specialized teams are working around the clock on the response's primary objectives:
 - Execute the interim startup plan
 - Continue to recover oil from and clean up the booster pump building
 - Determine whether oil escaped into the ground
 - Isolate and bypass the compromised booster pump piping section
 - Continue to prepare for both a standard and a cold restart of the TAPS line

Weather at Pump Station 1:

<http://pafg.arh.noaa.gov/wmofcst.php?wmo=FPAK51PAFG&type=public#AKZ203>.

For background on the incident, including restart of the pipeline: dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1.

Note: All times are Alaska Standard Time.

The Unified Command consists of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.