



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

Fort Knox
Gold Mine



Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. Cyanide Water Spill

SITREP # 1

SPILL #: 12309923602

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 5:00 p.m. August 24, 2012

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.

INCIDENT LOCATION: Fort Knox Gold Mine, Fairbanks, Alaska

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: Fort Knox reported the spill to ADEC at 9:51 p.m. on August 23, 2012

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED: The spill was discovered by a heavy equipment operator at approximately 9:00 p.m.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. estimates that approximately 45,000 gallons of cyanide water solution were released onto the mine roadway of the heap leach operation. Much of the spill area overlies the lined area of the heap leach pile, which is a tailings impoundment of materials that will be treated with the cyanide water solution.

CAUSE OF SPILL: A heavy-equipment operator working in the area of a buried cyanide solution pipeline inadvertently damaged a 12-inch supply line with a bulldozer ripper blade.

SOURCE CONTROL: Operators turned off pumps supplying solution to the pipeline and isolated the damaged section by closing off valves.

RESPONSE ACTION: Operators used heavy equipment to create a raised berm along the spill area to prevent migration of the solution and isolate the area from vehicular traffic. Contaminated soils were loaded into dump trucks and transported to the heap leach pile for processing. The area is being surveyed to determine the exact size of the impacted area. An ADEC responder conducted an initial site visit and will monitor the progress of the cleanup.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Gravel mine roads

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. will continue the cleanup of contaminated soils using heavy equipment and will submit a sampling and analysis plan for ADEC review and approval.

WEATHER: Mostly cloudy, 59°F, calm winds

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Mark Huffington, Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.
SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC
FOSC: Robert Whittier, EPA
Field SOSC: Paul Lhotka, ADEC

TIME/DATE OF NEXT SITUATION REPORT: As condition warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Lhotka, Environmental Program Specialist, ADEC (907) 451-2175



Gravel berm on left side of roadway to separate spill area from vehicular traffic



Damaged section of pipeline

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor's office, Senator Begich's office, State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state agencies. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Fort Knox					
Alaska State Troopers	Fairbanks	Fax		451-5100 or (800) 478-9300	451-5165
ADF&G	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Email	al.ott@alaska.gov jack.winters@alaska.gov	459-7285 or 459-7279	
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Steve Mulder	Email	Cam.leonard@alaska.gov Steve.mulder@alaska.gov	451-2811 or 269-5100	451-2985/ 278-7022
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Luke Hopkins	Fax	Mayor	459-1304	459-1102
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Jerry Isaac	Fax	President	452-8251 x 3433	459-3989
Senate D/Fairbanks	Joe Thomas	Email	Senator_joe_thomas@legis.state.ak.us	465-2327	
Senate E/Fairbanks	Joe Paskvan	Email	Senator_joe_paskvan@legis.state.ak.us	465-3709	
Senate F/North Pole	John Coghill, Jr.	Email	Senator_john_coghill@legis.state.ak.us	465-4797 or (800) 860-4797	
House 7/Fairbanks	Bob Miller	Email	Representative_bob_miller@legis.state.ak.us	465-4976 or (800) 465-4976	
House 8/Fairbanks	David Guttenberg	Email	Representative_david_guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us	465-4457 or (800) 928-4457	
House 9/Fairbanks	Scott Kawasaki	Email	Representative_scott_kawasaki@legis.state.ak.us	465-3466 or (866) 465-3466	
House 10/Fairbanks	Steve Thompson	Email	Representative_steve_thompson@legis.state.ak.us	465-3004 or (877) 465-3004	
House 11/North Pole	Tammie Wilson	Email	Representative_tammie_wilson@legis.state.ak.us	465-3719 or (877) 465-3719	
City of Fairbanks	Jerry Cleworth	Fax	Mayor	459-6793	459-6787
City of Fairbanks	Warren Cummings	Fax	Fire Chief	450-6500 x 6604	450-6666
City of Fairbanks	Laren Zager	Fax	Police Chief	450-6500 x 6515	452-2142
City of Fairbanks	Brad Johnson	Fax	Deputy Chief of Police	450-6500 x 6566	450-6595