



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

SITUATION REPORT

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

Galena Flooding Event 2013

SITREP # 3

SPILL #: 13309914702

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 p.m. on June 25, 2013

INCIDENT LOCATION: Multiple locations within the city of Galena were contaminated during the spring 2013 flooding event. Galena is located on the Yukon River, approximately 270 air miles west of Fairbanks.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The spills are the result of flooding that began in Galena on May 27, 2013.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: At this time ADEC has identified the following potential sources of contamination: drums containing used motor oil, dislodged heating oil and fuel tanks, electrical transformers, batteries, automobiles, propane cylinders, and containers of paint or other miscellaneous hazardous substances. The quantity of contaminants released is unknown.

CAUSE OF SPILL: An ice jam developed on the Yukon River during spring melting, flooding the city. Floodwaters dislodged and damaged fuel tanks and other containers of hazardous materials.

SOURCE CONTROL: More than 1,200 containers containing hazardous liquids, ranging in size from 55-gallon drums to aerosol cans, have been brought to a secure collection area by cleanup crews and Galena residents. Potentially hazardous solid wastes, such as refrigerators, freezers, electronic devices, batteries, and fire extinguishers are also being brought to the collection area. Responders continue work to identify additional potential sources of contamination.

RESPONSE ACTION: At the request of the City of Galena, ADEC has assumed oversight of cleanup of hazardous materials in response to this incident. ADEC has hired Emerald Alaska, Inc., to continue collecting hazardous materials from flood-affected areas, clean up contaminated soil and water on state, city and school district lands, and safely dispose of wastes. Current response efforts remain focused on containing hazardous materials, determining the extent of contamination, assembling cleanup resources, and developing cleanup plans.

The flood deposited electrical transformers that may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the city's sewage lagoon. ADEC and Emerald are developing a plan to remove the transformers from the lagoon, test them and the lagoon for the presence of PCBs.

Three ADEC responders are currently in Galena to help manage the cleanup.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Petroleum soil contamination has been identified in some public areas. The city's sewage lagoon will not return to service until the level of PCB contamination has been determined and a cleanup completed, if necessary.



FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC will continue to monitor the emergency response and work with Emerald to develop plans for cleaning up contaminated soil. Once the transformers have been removed from the sewage lagoon and tested for PCBs, ADEC and Emerald will determine the proper means of disposal and plan for cleanup of the lagoon.

WEATHER: Today – decreasing clouds, areas of smoke; high in the mid to upper 80s; north winds 5 to 15 mph.
Tonight – partly cloudy, areas of smoke; low in the mid-50s to lower 60s; light winds.
Wednesday – mostly sunny, areas of smoke; high in the mid-80s to lower 90s; light winds.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Bryan Fisher, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC

Field SOSC: Bob Mattson, ADEC

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As the situation warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC (907) 451-2145

http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy13/130607301/130607301_index.htm



Flood-displaced drums being collected by a cleanup task force, June 24, 2013. (Photo/ADEC)

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first sitrep distributed June 7, 2013 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first sitrep can be found in the **Additional Information** box above.