



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 # 4

SPILL #: 13309914702

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 p.m. July 5, 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: ADEC 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 2,200 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. These hazardous items include diesel, gasoline, used oil, kerosene, glycol, fuel additives, grease, paint, degreaser, and other unknown liquids. 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 assumed oversight of cleanup of hazardous materials in response to this incident. ADEC 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 are focused on completing the collection of hazardous debris, determining the extent of contamination, and preparing the debris for reuse, recycling, or disposal.

Two ADEC responders and 14 field staff from Emerald are currently in Galena. The city is providing qualified local laborers for response support to work with Emerald.

Approximately 50 electrical transformers that may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were located during field surveys. Seven transformers have been collected, wrapped and loaded for transport to the hazmat staging area. The flood deposited an unknown number of transformers into the city sewage lagoon. ADEC and Emerald



are working to remove the transformers from the lagoon. 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.

The flooding moved two city power plant tanks from their foundation. As part of their contract, Emerald will remove the residual fuel from the tanks and clean them in preparation for integrity inspection, which the city is required to have done before the tanks can be placed back into service. Emerald has vented, drained and cleaned one of the tanks and reports some structural damage on the floor of the tank where it slid off the foundation. The other tank is currently being vented and cleaning will occur today.

On June 30, ADEC conducted an aerial surveillance downriver of Galena in search of hazardous material debris, drums and fuel tanks. Items identified during the overflight will be collected.

Contaminated soil cleanup plan is developed within the city and the cleanup will begin as staff becomes available.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Petroleum soil contamination has been identified in some public areas.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC will continue to monitor the emergency response and work with Emerald to develop plans.

WEATHER: Today – mostly cloudy. Isolated showers in the morning and scattered showers after noon. Patchy morning fog. Highs in the lower 60s; South winds to 10 mph.
Tonight – mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid to upper 40s. Southeast winds to 10 mph.
Saturday – cloudy. Showers likely in the evening with a chance of showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s. South winds to 10 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

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

SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC

Field SOSC: Wes Ghormley, 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



Emerald truck loaded with transformers to be transported to hazmat staging area, July 4, 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.