



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program

**SITUATION REPORT**



**Kaktovik Tank KAK-70 ULSD Release**

**SITREP # 3**

**SPILL #:** 17399900901

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 5:30 p.m., January 17, 2017

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** North Slope Borough (NSB)

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Kaktovik, Alaska (Lat/Long: 70.126559, -143.618159)

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The spill was discovered on January 9, 2017 following a storm event, when a local North Slope Borough (NSB) supervisor attempted to fill equipment from the pump house at 2:15 p.m. The NSB verbally reported the discovery of the spill to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) at 3:20 p.m. on January 9, 2017.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The product released was ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD), which was spilled from an aboveground storage tank with a total capacity of 5,000 gallons. Currently, the spill volume is unknown and being assessed. The tank, located on a gravel pad, was last filled on December 22, 2016. Based on fuel records, the NSB estimates that at the time of the release the tank contained approximately 4,000 gallons of ULSD, which represents the maximum potential spill volume.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The fuel line that connects the 5,000 gallon tank to a pump house broke following a strong winter storm event. The NSB and ADEC are investigating the cause of the line break, which is currently unknown.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The spill from the fuel line break had ceased by the time of discovery on January 9, 2017.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Response efforts are being coordinated between the NSB, ADEC and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) through a Unified Command. **Eight NSB response contractors are currently onsite working to establish staging areas, site access, and to further delineate contaminated material.** The spill site is covered by snow and ice, which serves to limit the spread of oil and protect the **underlying surface** until cleanup can occur. **Snow push piles around the community, created during road snow removal activities, are being checked for potential ULSD pollution by field personnel. Two snow push piles found to have diesel contamination are to be moved to the snow stock pile in the hot zone today. Strong winds, drifting snow, white-out conditions, and -60°F windchill delayed field operations on January 15, 2017 due to safety concerns. No injuries have been reported.**

**No impacts to Harold Kaveolook School or other public facilities have been reported at this time. As a precaution, two public service announcements were posted to the community requesting that members of the public avoid snow piles created during previous road clearing activities as they may potentially be contaminated with ULSD.**

Two ADEC pollution responders are currently on scene to coordinate response tactics, monitor spill response actions and investigate the cause of the release. Two USCG representatives departed from Kaktovik on January 16, 2017.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Resources affected include the gravel pad, adjacent roadways and ditches. Preliminary screening by responders indicate ULSD may have migrated outside of the original release footprint as a result of wind drifting and snow removal activities prior to the identification of the release. Potentially affected areas include snow covered tundra and Kaktovik Lagoon.

No impacts to wildlife or archeological sites have been reported. Wildlife hazing permits and hazing personnel have been activated to further deter and protect wildlife.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The NSB spill response contractors are sending additional responders and equipment to Kaktovik, scheduled to arrive on January 18 and January 19, 2017, pending weather. Upon arrival, they will assist with further spill delineation, containment and continued cleanup operations. Containment efforts will include the construction of lined containment cells and ice-stabilization of contaminated stockpiles to mitigate further impact and spread of the ULSD. .

Additional ADEC and USCG representatives are scheduled to arrive in the community later this week to join NSB representatives in hosting a Town Hall meeting to provide information and address questions or concerns the community may have regarding the release and clean-up.

**WEATHER:** Current weather conditions are overcast with temperatures of -21°F and winds from the WSW at 10 to 15 mph, with wind chill feels like -42 °F. Tonight overcast with lows of -22°F and winds from the WSW at 5 to 10 mph. Tomorrow clouds are expected with a high of -14 °F and low of -16 °F, winds are expected from the W at 10 to 20 mph. There is a 50% chance of snow through tomorrow.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Ian Stroud, NSB  
SOSC: Ashley Adamczak, ADEC  
FOSC-R: Fae Bailey, USCG  
Field SOSC: John Ebel

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ashley Adamczak (907) 451-2124

This SITREP and additional photos will be available at the following website:

[http://www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr\\_active.htm](http://www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr_active.htm)



Photo showing response contractors collecting sorbent material from contaminated snow stockpile within the delineated area January 13, 2017. (Photo/ADEC)

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** Please refer to the first SITREP distributed January 10 2017 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first SITREP can be found in the Additional Information box above.