

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: M/V Lituya Grounding

SITREP #: 2

SPILL NUMBER: 09119903001

LEDGER CODE: 14218080

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) received a report that the M/V Lituya was floating free at 12:51 AM on January 30, 2009. The vessel was reported aground at 2:00 AM on January 30, 2009. The USCG reported the incident to ADEC at 2:10 AM.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 5:00 PM on January 30, 2009

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 2:00 PM on February 2, 2009

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The amount of product spilled is unknown at this time. The vessel is carrying 7,000 gallons of diesel fuel, approximately 800 gallons of lube oil, and an unknown quantity of hydraulic oil.

LOCATION: Scrub Island in Port Chester near Metlakatla, Alaska. The location of the vessel is: N55° 08.44' W131° 43.11'.

CAUSE OF SPILL: High winds caused the State ferry Lituya to part its 3 wires and single mooring line at the Alaska Marine Highway System terminal in Metlakatla. The vessel was blown approximately 1.2km to the North and grounded on Scrub Island. There were no passengers or crew onboard the vessel at the time of the incident.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS).

RESPONSE ACTION: A Unified Command was established with representatives from ADEC, the USCG, DOTPF, and the oil spill response team SEAPRO. The captain of the M/V Lituya, Capt. Booth, arrived on scene via a private boat at 5:00 AM and reported that the stern was aground and damage was visible but no fuel was leaking from the vessel. Two USCG marine investigators boarded the M/V Lituya and conducted an initial vessel assessment at approximately 8:00 AM. The keel coolers were breached and leaking antifreeze. The vessel hull has been damaged but not breached.

Lightering operations commenced at 12:05 PM following the plan approval by the Unified Command. Approximately 540 gallons of diesel oil were successfully lightered by 1:15 PM to the Southeast Alaska Petroleum Resource Organization (SEAPRO) oil spill response barge on scene. The vessel began to lift from the rocks at approximately 1:15 PM so lightering operations were suspended and towing bridals rigged on the vessel. The vessel floated free from Scrub Island at 2:12 PM and was moved to deeper water by tugs on scene.

Per the salvage plan approved by Unified Command, the M/V Lituya underwent internal and underwater assessments to determine its seaworthiness for transit to the Alaska Ship and Drydock (ASD) in Ketchikan, Alaska. Alaska Commercial Diving found no evidence of damage (e.g., penetration of the hull plating) while diving on the vessel. USCG marine inspectors found no significant damage while conducting their internal inspection.

Unified Command has determined that the M/V Lituya is capable of transit, under tow of the tugs Muzon and the Ethan B, to the ASD for further damage assessment and permanent repairs. The vessels departed Port Chester at approximately 4:05 PM. The estimated time of arrival in Ketchikan has not been determined and will be dependent on weather and sea state en route.

SOURCE CONTROL: There is no indication of damage to the fuel tanks at this time. Sheen has been reported around the Scrub Island originating from the vessel's fuel vent. No additional discharges have been reported since early on the morning of January 30, 2009. The containment boom was removed from the vessel after the M/V Lituya floated free of Scrub Island and further assessments determined that the vessel was not leaking fuel.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: None reported at this time.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The vessel will berth at the ASD for permanent repairs.

WEATHER: Winds 10 knots from the south, seas calm. Visibility 8 miles.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Deputy Commissioner Jim Beedle, DOTPF Marine Operations
 F.O.S.C.: Cdr. Scott Bornemann, USCG
 S.O.S.C.: Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC
 Field S.O.S.C.: Bob Fultz, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC SOSOC; 907-465-5378
 Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor's office, ADF&G, ADNDR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
State of Alaska DOTPF	Roger Wetherell	E-mail	Roger.wetherell@alaska.gov		
State of Alaska DOTPF	Jim Beedle	E-mail	Jim.beedle@alaska.gov		
Senate Dist. A	Senator Bert Stedman	E-mail	senator_bert_stedman@legis.state.ak.us	465-3873	465-3922
Senate Dist. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax	session	465-3473	465-2827
House Dist. 1	Rep. Kyle Johansen	Fax	session	465-3424	465-3793
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thomas	Fax	session	465-3732	465-2652
USCG (MSD Ketchikan)	LT Jason Boyer	Email	jason.a.boyer@uscg.mil	225-4496	225-4499
USCG (MSD Ketchikan)	MSTC Steve Natale	Email	steven.j.natale@uscg.mil		
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USDA Forest Service	District Ranger	Email	jbaldwin01@fs.fed.us	945-3631 723-3192	
USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5895
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Tom Schumacher	Email	tom.schumacher@alaska.gov	465-4346	
ADF&G Ketchikan	Scott Walker		scott.walker@Alaska.gov	225-5195	
Ketchikan Indian Corporation	General Manager Debby Patten	Fax		225-5158	228-5224
Organized Village of Saxman	President Lee Wallace	Fax		247-2502	247-2504
City of Ketchikan	Mayor Bob Weinstein	E-mail	mayor@city.ketchikan.ak.us	225-3111	225-5075
City of Saxman	Mayor Charles Denny	E-mail	cityadmin@kpunet.net; cityclerksaxman@kpunet.net	225-4166	225-6450
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Manager Dan Bockhorst	E-mail	mgr@borough.ketchikan.ak.us	228-6625	247-6625
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117



The M/V Lituya grounded on Scrub Island, Port Chester, Alaska, on January 30, 2009.
Photo by: USCG.



SEAPRO deploys containment boom around the grounded M/V Lituya. Photo
by: USCG.