

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Pelican Seafoods, Inc
Anhydrous Ammonia

SITREP #: 1

SPILL NUMBER: 09119923202

LEDGER CODE: Not Requested

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 2:50 PM on August 25, 2009

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 1:00PM on August 27, 2009

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: This is an informational sitrep on the current situation at the Pelican Seafoods facility in Pelican, AK. There has been no release reported to the Department.

LOCATION: Pelican Seafoods, Inc. - Pelican, AK.

CAUSE OF SPILL: Beginning on August 16, 2009, heavy rains in Pelican caused severe flooding of the area. At approximately 2:30 AM on August 20, 2009, a 30 foot section of the water flume supplying water to both the City of Pelican and the Pelican Hydroelectric plant collapsed, damaging the main water supply line and leaving the town without a water supply. Water from the flume also provides cooling water to the Pelican Seafoods fish processing facility's refrigeration system. The hydroelectric plant was undergoing maintenance at the time of the incident and the town was already using the backup diesel generator.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): There is no responsible party.

RESPONSE ACTION: On August 20, 2009, the flume supplying water to Pelican failed. At the time of the flume collapse a construction project to upgrade Pelican's hydroelectric plant was underway. Part of the project included installation of a temporary water line to provide Pelican with drinking water. This line is now being used to supply all water to Pelican, including both the town and the Pelican Seafoods fish processing plant (fish plant).

The temporary waterline has insufficient capacity to provide both drinking water and cooling water to the fish plant at the same time. The water line is used to fill Pelican's water tank at night and during the day the water flow is diverted to the fish plant to cool the compressors in the refrigeration system. The refrigeration system uses anhydrous ammonia as a refrigerant. There is an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia in the refrigeration system at the fish plant.

A further disruption to the water supply could prevent cooling water from being sent to the fish plant's compressors essentially shutting down the refrigeration system (system).

Without sufficient cooling water there is an increase of pressure in the system. Most modern systems can withstand these pressures. However, the system in the fish plant is quite old and the personnel taking care of the system have noted some minor leaks. A continued increase in pressure would add additional stress to the system piping.

The cooling coils and refrigerant lines for the system are located above the freezers. The wood structure, according to personnel on scene, is frozen. There is concern in the community that should the wood structure thaw, the roof of the fish plant could collapse and break the system piping, resulting in a catastrophic release of anhydrous ammonia.

Currently, the refrigeration unit at the fish plant is operating and holding a temperature of approximately 20 degrees F. The normal temperatures of the system are 5 to 10 degrees F according to personnel in Pelican.

The following actions were taken by ADEC:

A refrigeration company was consulted and informed ADEC the system should hold pressure if it loses power. The person providing this information was not aware of the system's age.

An expert in anhydrous ammonia safety was consulted by the department. He recommended removal of the refrigerant or a controlled release to the atmosphere be considered. This information was supplied to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM), who is currently working with the City of Pelican on a request for emergency assistance.

ADEC discussed emergency procedures with the Pelican Utility District. The City has an evacuation plan in the event of a catastrophic release of the refrigerant. The name of the safety expert consulted by ADEC was provided to Pelican officials.

SOURCE CONTROL: There is no reportable discharge at this time.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There has been no major release of anhydrous ammonia at this time and no resources have been affected.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC will continue to provide information and assistance to the City of Pelican and the DHS&EM as requested, and respond to all requests for information from state and local agencies.

WEATHER: Rain. East winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts up to 50 mph. Winds switching to the southeast at 30 mph with gust up to 40 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Patricia Phillips (Mayor of Pelican)
F.O.S.C.: N/A
S.O.S.C.: Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC
Field S.O.S.C.: None

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC, 907-465-5378

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

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

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
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. 2	Representative Peggy Wilson	Fax	session	465-3824	465-3175
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thomas	Fax	session	465-3732	465-2652
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Latarsha McQueen	Email	Latarsha.s.mcqueen@uscg.mil	463-2835	463-2445
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Matt Jones		Matt.n.jones@uscg.mil	463-2452	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Kurt Clarke		Kurt.a.clark@uscg.mil	463-2475	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Capt. Melissa Bert	Email	Melissa.bert@uscg.mil	463-2836	
USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5896

USDA Forest Service - Hoonah Ranger District	District Ranger Rich Jennings	Email	rdjennings@fs.fed.us	945-1201	945-3385
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Jackie Timothy	Email	jackie.timothy@alaska.gov	465-4275	
Organized Village of Kake	President Henrich Kadake	Fax	keexkwaan@kakefirstnation.org	785-6471	785-4902
City of Kake	Mayor Henrich Kadake	E-mail	city.of.kake@gmail.com	785-3804	785-4815
City of Pelican	Mayor Patricia Phillips	Fax	cityhall@pelicancity.net	735-2202	735-2258
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
Kake Tribal Corporation	Paula Burgner			735-2296	
DEC - Village Safe Water	Philip Gagnon	Email	Philip.gagnon@alaska.gov	269-2681	
DMVA	Claude Denver	Email	Claude.denver@alaska.gov	428-7090	
DEC – Water Quality	Bill Griffith	Email	bill.griffith@alaska.gov	229-4695	
DEC – Water Quality	Greg Magee	Email	Greg.magee@alaska.gov	269-7613	



Location of Pelican in Southeast Alaska.