

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** Tug *Pathfinder* Grounding

**SITREP #:** 7 and Final

**SPILL NUMBER:** 09229935701

**LEDGER CODE:** 14282260

**TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT:** The grounding of the tug *Pathfinder* was reported to the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) Vessel Traffic System in Prince William Sound at 6:15 PM on December 23, 2009. The USCG reported the grounding to ADEC at 7:52 PM on December 23, 2009.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 3:00 PM on January 4, 2010

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** This is the final report.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** Crowley estimates that 6,410 gallons of diesel fuel was released to the environment.

**LOCATION:** The grounding occurred on Bligh Reef, Prince William Sound, Alaska (60° 50.39' N, 146° 52.94' W).

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The 136-foot tug had completed an ice survey and was headed back to port at the time of the grounding. The grounding caused extensive damage to the hull, including tearing a 4- to 5-foot hole at the keel. The cause of the grounding is unknown at this time and is being investigated by the USCG and ADEC.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Crowley Maritime Corporation (Crowley), Seattle, WA

**RESPONSE ACTIONS:** Crowley completed assessment of the volume of diesel fuel released from the tug *Pathfinder*. All the fuel recovered from the tug was measured by a third party consultant. Of the three fuel tanks that were damaged, only two tanks (2C and 3C) contained fuel. Prior to the grounding, Crowley reported that tanks 2C and 3C contained approximately 19,568 and 23,540 gallons of diesel fuel, respectively, for a total volume of 43,108 gallons (note that Crowley engineers originally estimated that tank 2C contained 10,605 gallons). The volume recovered from tanks 2C and 3C following the grounding was 36,698 gallons. Therefore, Crowley estimates that 6,410 gallons of fuel was released to the environment.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The tug *Pathfinder* is currently at the Valdez Container Terminal surrounded by containment boom and has a 24-hour security watch on board.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Marine waters of Prince William Sound. No oiled wildlife and no shoreline impacts have been reported.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The tug *Pathfinder* will remain at the Valdez Container Terminal until the engineering assessment is completed. The assessment will determine whether the tug can be safely towed to its final destination on the West Coast.

ADEC will continue to monitor the activity and will assist the USCG in the investigation of the incident.

State and Federal Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) trustees will confer regarding any assessments, including computer modeling, to determine the extent of any short or long term injury to natural resources in Prince William Sound.

**WEATHER:** Snow with accumulation of two to five inches. Highs in the 20s and variable winds to 10 mph except northeast 15 to 30 mph through Thompson Pass.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL**

Incident Commander: Walt Teague (Crowley)  
F.O.S.C: Darryl Verfaillie, Commander (USCG)  
S.O.S.C: Gary Folley (ADEC)

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Folley, ADEC (907) 262-5210 ext. 234

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:  
[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy10/091223201/091223201\\_index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum_fy10/091223201/091223201_index.htm)

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The sitrep was also distributed to the various agency staff listed on the standard distribution list. The receiving agencies listed in the standard distribution list includes: Governor's office, Senator Begich's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS.

<b>AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SENT VIA</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFO</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>FACSIMILE</b>
USCG-MSU Valdez	CDR Valdez Office	Fax		835-7210	835-7207
US EPA	Carl Lautenberger	Fax		257-1342	271-6340
USDA Forest Service	Ken Vaughan	Fax/Email	kvaughan@fs.fed.us	586-8789	586-7555
USDA Forest Service	Kent Kohlhase	Fax/Email	kkohlhase@fs.fed.us	743-9544	743-9476
PWS RCAC	Donna Schantz	Fax/Email	schantz@pwsrcac.org	835-5000 / 277-7222	835-5926 / 277-4523
CIRCAC	Mike Munger	Fax/Email	munger@circac.org	283-7222	283-6102
Mayor of Cordova	Mayor's Office	Fax		424-6200	424-6000
Mayor of Valdez	Mayor's Office	Fax		835-4313	835-2992
Native Village of Eyak	Bruce Cain	Fax/Email	bruce@nveyak.org		
<b>Senate F/</b> Fairbanks	John B. Coghil Jr.	Fax	Juneau	465-4797	465-3258
<b>House 12/</b> Valdez	John Harris	Fax	Juneau	465-4859	465-3799
Governor's Office	Ward Hinger	Email	wardhinger@alaska.gov		