

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** Valdez Petro Star Refinery Fire      **SITREP #:** 2

**SPILL NUMBER:** 08229936301      **LEDGER CODE:** Requested

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** 10:45 PM, December 28, 2008

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 10:00 AM, December 30, 2008

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 12:00 PM, January 6, 2009

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** It is estimated that about 200 gallons of Alaska North Slope (ANS) crude oil was released as a result of the fire at the refinery. In addition, approximately 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of water used in the firefighting effort was slightly contaminated with oil and is now frozen. These estimates are based on an inspection of the site by ADEC's Valdez responder on December 29<sup>th</sup>. The intense winds carried a plume of soot and aqueous fire fighting foam (AFFF) to the west causing a light coating of soot on the snow surface. The extent of contamination at the facility is depicted in the diagram below.

**LOCATION:** Valdez Petro Star Refinery, 2.5 Mile Dayville Road, Valdez, AK

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** A fire in the refractory tower at the refinery. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Petro Star, Inc.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The ADEC and Petro Star officials inspected the facility to determine the extent of oil contamination on the morning of December 29<sup>th</sup>. The estimated 200 gallons of crude oil that was released remained liquefied and is being recovered by refinery personnel. Petro Star has activated Alaska Chadux Corporation, a member-funded oil spill removal organization headquartered in Anchorage, to provide cleanup support. Chadux was activated primarily to help with planning and logistics, and to provide workers to assist with oil recovery. Chadux's on-site work force consists of eight field workers and two staff for planning and logistics.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The fire was extinguished by a combined Petro Star Fire Team, Valdez Fire Dept., and Alyeska Marine Terminal Fire Team. The fire was extinguished at 12:40 A.M. on December 29, 2008.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** The intense winds carried a plume of soot and AFFF to the west causing a light coating of soot on the snow surface. The fire water and crude oil has been contained within the refinery's perimeter dike. The ground is frozen and snow covered preventing water or oil from reaching gravels within the containment area. There is no apparent impact to the local environment beyond the perimeter dike other than the windblown soot plume that extends several hundred feet to the west.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The ADEC will continue to work with Petro Star and Alaska Chadux Corp. to ensure that the cleanup of oil contamination at the site is completed in accordance with State standards. Disposal options for the contaminated snow and ice are being reviewed. A decision has not been made at this time. Petro Star will be conducting an engineering assessment to determine the extent of the damage at the Valdez refinery.

**WEATHER:** Weather in the Valdez area is expected to continue to be clear and cold with moderate winds of 30 to 45 mph and occasional gusts to 60 to 75 mph. Wind chills are expected to be from -15 to -35°F

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Mike Simms, Petro Star  
 F.O.S.C. : CDR Darrel Verfaillie, USCG  
 S.O.S.C. : Gary Folley  
 Field S.O.S.C.: John W. Engles

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** John W. Engles at 835-4698, or Gary Folley at 262-5210, x234.

AGENCY	NAME	Sent Via		Telephone	Facsimile
USCG-MSU/Valdez	CDR. Valdez-office	Fax		835-7210	835-7207
US EPA	Matt Carr	Fax		271-5083	271-3424
USDA Forest Service	Ken Vaughan Deputy Director of Engineering and Aviation Management	Email/fax	<a href="mailto:KVaughan@fs.fed.us">KVaughan@fs.fed.us</a>	586-8789	586-7555
USDA Forest Service	Gerry Xavier Engineering Staff Officer, Chugach National Forest	Email/fax	<a href="mailto:GXavier@fs.fed.us">GXavier@fs.fed.us</a>	743-9544	743-9476
<b>OTHER</b>					
PWSRCAC	John Devens	Fax		834-5000	835-5926
CIRCAC	Mike Munger	Fax/Email	<a href="mailto:munger@circac.org">munger@circac.org</a>	283-7222	283-6102
Mayor of Cordova	Mayor's Office	Fax		424-6200	424-6000
Mayor of Valdez	Mayor's Office	Fax		835-8850	835-4893
<b>Session/Interim</b>					
<b>Senate F/ Fairbanks</b>	Gene Therriault	Fax	Juneau 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	465-4797 465-4797	465-3884 465-3884
<b>House 35/Valdez</b>	John Harris	Fax	Anchorage 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	269-0129 465-4859	269-0128 465-3799

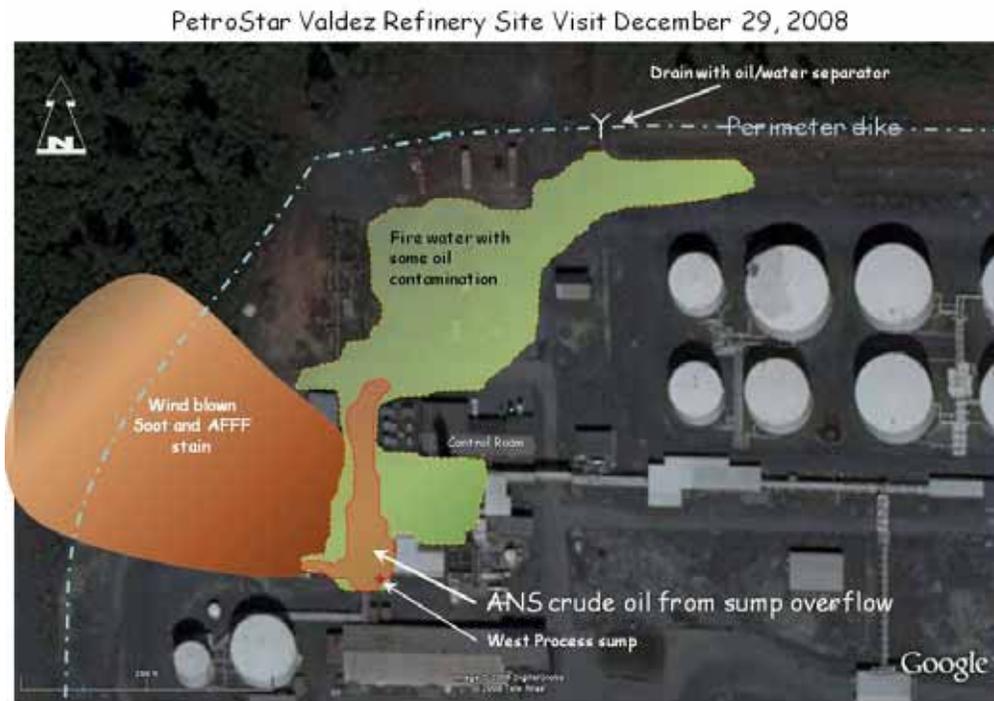


Diagram provided by ADEC base image is from Google.