

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Gambell Drinking Water Well **SITREP #:** 2

SPILL NUMBER: 09389927801 **LEDGER CODE:** 14277960

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: No fuel spill has been identified

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: October 9, 2009 1:00 PM

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: October 16, 2009 12:00 PM

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: No fuel spill has been identified. The Gambell Water Plant Operator reported that the well house had an odor of gasoline and the water in the well displayed a sheen. Near the well the operator found an empty one-gallon can that had contained gasoline.

LOCATION: Gambell, Alaska

CAUSE OF SPILL: unknown

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): unknown

RESPONSE ACTION: The City of Gambell has flushed the water distribution system with water from their 1.3 million gallon storage tank. The storage tank contains filtered water and was dosed with approximately 3 mg/l of chlorine through the top hatch. Each of two loops was flushed with about 100,000 gallons of water. City officials will take coliform samples to be sent out for testing as soon as a plane is able to arrive. The city water system is operating but is remaining on a boil water notice until the sample results are known to ensure the water is safe to drink. To verify the type of sheen observed on the water, a volatile organic compounds sample kit sent from Fairbanks should be on location today to sample for hydrocarbons.

An ADEC spill responder arrived on site October 8, 2009, but could not locate any evidence of a fuel release. He has been working with the village public safety officer and city mayor in determining the source of the fuel container. The ADEC responder is expected to depart Gambell this morning and return to Fairbanks.

SOURCE CONTROL: No fuel spill has been identified. It is suspected that the operator of the city water plant smelled residual vapors from the one-gallon fuel container found near the well, not from the well itself, and that the observed sheens on the surface of the water are organic in nature

RESOURCES AFFECTED: The City of Gambell drinking water well and storage tanks

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Determine if the water in the well and storage tanks is contaminated.

WEATHER: Rain, Patchy fog, temp 40 – 45 degrees, Northeast winds 15 – 25 mph, becoming south in the afternoon.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Bryant Koonooka
S.O.S.C. : Tom DeRuyter
Field S.O.S.C.: Brian Jackson

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Wes Ghormley, 451-2164

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

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

STATE AGENCY	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFO	TELEPHONE	FAX
Alaska State Troopers	Nome	Fax		443-2835	443-5840
EPA	Matt Carr	Fax		271-5083 or 257-1342	271-3424
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Steve Mulder	Fax		451-2811/451-2914	451-2985/ 278-7022
Governor's Office (Fairbanks)	Parnell/Campbell	Fax		451-2920	451-2858
Lt. Governor's Office (Juneau)	Parnell/Campbell	Fax			465-5400
Legislator (Senate T)	Donnie Olson (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3707	465-4821
Legislator (House 39)	Richard Foster (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3789 or (800) 478-3789	465-3242
Legislator (House 40)	Reggie Joule (D)	Fax	Kotzebue	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586