



For Immediate Release:  
Date: 12 p.m. September 22, 2017

Contact: Kate Dugan, PIO  
907-831-0831/907-834-6990

## **Berth 5 VMT spill**

### **Fact Sheet 1**

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Friday, 12 p.m.

- Response efforts continue in Valdez Friday morning as more resources arrive on scene.
- The first priority of the response is the health, wellness and safety of responders, personnel and the public.
- Approximately 185 people have been involved in the response, including more than 120 responders in the field.
- We recognize and share the public's concerns and are activating all available resources, including pre-staged equipment around Port Valdez, to respond to the incident and protect the environment and surrounding community.
- Alyeska is committed to releasing information as it becomes available and keeping the public, stakeholders, and the media informed regarding response efforts.

#### ***Protection Efforts***

- Crews worked through the night to recover oil and protect sensitive areas around Port Valdez.
- The Solomon Gulch Hatchery and Valdez Duck Flats were boomed overnight.
- The Valdez Star is skimming to the north of the Valdez Marine Terminal with five vessels of opportunity that are "sweeping" or pulling approximately 1700 feet absorbent boom.
- Teams will continue tending to sensitive area protection booming around the Port, as well as the recovery operations near the Terminal.
- Wildlife personnel are on the water and are equipped to respond.
- Shoreline cleanup crews are mobilizing for action later this morning.

#### ***Recovery Efforts***

- The source of the spill (oily test water) has made it difficult to precisely gauge the size of the release.
- Crews have recovered approximately 221 gallons of emulsified oil and water, which would indicate a spill larger than initially estimated.
- As crews continue recovery operations, this number may change over the course of the day.
- The source of the spill is secure and contained, and the piping has been flushed with salt water.
- Responders worked overnight and will continue working in the more concentrated areas of oil inside containment near Berths 4 and 5 at the Valdez Marine Terminal.
- There are several small response vessels that can maneuver close to shore, two self-propelled skimmers, and several smaller skimmers in operation.
- Alyeska, USCG and ADEC personnel are preparing for a morning site assessment by air if weather permits, or on the water.

### ***Safety and Security Zones***

- **The USCG has established a safety zone from the western edge of the Valdez Marine Terminal security zone to Anderson Bay. All vessels not involved in the response are to avoid that area.**
- **Mariners are also advised to avoid the booming around Solomon Gulch Hatchery and the Valdez Duck Flats.**
- **A temporary flight restriction is in place, a two mile radius from the VMT to 2000ft above it.**

### ***Incident Objectives***

- **Ensure the protection of the health, safety and security of responders, operational personnel and the public.**
- **Maximize recovery effort.**
- **Minimize impacts to environmentally, socially, culturally and economically sensitive areas and resources.**
- **Ensure field operations are supported to maximize response effectiveness.**
- **Proactively engage the public with timely and accurate information.**

### ***Incident Commander Statement***

**“While we never want this sort of event to occur, we train year round to prepare for events like this, and we have the resources to respond,” said Scott Hicks, Incident Commander. “Crews have been working diligently overnight and will continue again today, keeping safety as their first priority and reducing any impacts to the environment.”**

As of 9 p.m. September 21, 2017

- The response is ongoing and preparing to continue overnight; more resources are en route and crews are setting up industrial lighting to assist with nighttime operations.
- There was one minor injury; first aid was administered and the individual was released back to work.
- Priorities for the next 12 hours include completing the deployment of boom around the Solomon Gulch Hatchery and the Valdez Duck Flats, and continuing recovery efforts.
- Responders are setting up boom to the east of Saw Mill Creek to protect this sensitive area.
- There are more than ten response vessels conducting tactics like skimming and site monitoring and boom deployment, with more than 3000 feet of boom being deployed and three self-propelled skimmers being placed in the water and made operational.
- Other response vessels are pulling “sweeps” or absorbent boom that help clean up sheens.
- Several fishing vessels from the vessel of opportunity program have been dispatched and are on their way to the scene to assist.
- There are reports of a few marine animals in the vicinity of the spill, and Alyeska's environment team is working with state and federal wildlife specialists to monitor and respond as needed.
- Preliminary determination of cause is: Alyeska crews were conducting planned maintenance of the loading arms; to test the integrity of the loading arms, a fire water pump routes salt water through the system at an increased pressure. During a pause in the testing, oily test water flowed back through hose and piping related to the maintenance, out of the fire system salt water intake piping, and into Port Valdez.
- The source has been controlled and contained; the related piping was flushed with salt water this afternoon and it no longer contains oily water.
- There is no tanker due to call at the VMT until late Saturday/early Sunday morning, but the response may impact shipping.

- Weather is calm this evening, and mild conditions are expected through the night.
- The pipeline has not been shut down.

As of 4 p.m. September 21, 2017

- Around 11:30 a.m. September, 21, a spill was observed in the vicinity of Berth 5 on the Valdez Marine Terminal.
- Alyeska immediately dispatched VMT response crews (TCC and SERVS) to deploy boom and self-propelled skimmers to the scene. Approximately 3000 feet of boom has been deployed and 2 skimmers are on scene and operational.
- Crews performing site characterization determined the spill was crude oil, the cause is still under investigation.
- The size of the spill is unknown at this time, the source has been contained and secure, but is still leaking/dripping oil.
- A helicopter is performing an overflight to determine if the sheen has been contained by boom.
- USCG and ADEC are on scene and RCAC has arrived at the VEOC.
- Alyeska is pulling in resources to boom the Solomon Gulch Hatchery and the Valdez Duck Flats and will work to complete those deployments overnight.

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