

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Lemon Creek Propane Tanks

SITREP #: 1 and final

SPILL NUMBER: 04119933401

LEDGER CODE: NA

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: November 29, 2004, exact time unknown. Reports to Juneau Police Department (JPD) began 7:50 a.m. The release was reported to ADEC by City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Public Works Department at approximately 8:05 A.M.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 2:00 P.M. November 29, 2004

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: An undetermined amount of Ethyl Mercaptan was released. Ethyl Mercaptan (Mercaptan) is a petroleum product. It is added to propane at the rate of 1 pound of Mercaptan to 10,000 gallons of propane to provide an odor to the propane for detection of leaks. Mercaptan is an irritant that can cause respiratory problems, headaches, nausea and vomiting. A portion of the mercaptan in propane can settle out as a liquid in a propane tank in long term service. The mercaptan can remain in the tank even if the tank is open to the atmosphere.

LOCATION: Lemon Creek area of Juneau, AK.

CAUSE OF SPILL: Thirteen empty propane tanks were transported from the Lemon Creek area to the barge loading facility at Channel Drive via Old Glacier Highway. The tanks were to be included in a scrap metal shipment to the Seattle, WA area. Some of the propane tanks were uncapped during transport, allowing residual mercaptan vapors to be released to the atmosphere.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Amerigas Propane Service; Channel Construction, Inc.

RESPONSE ACTION: Following the initial report to the Department, ADEC staff contacted JPD and learned that at least three reports had been received of a strong propane smell in the Lemon Creek area. Businesses in the area were contacted by ADEC staff to determine the source of the odor. One such individual contacted by ADEC said that she had noticed a very strong smell of propane while driving behind a truck carrying four propane tanks.

Channel Construction, Inc, the company preparing the scrap metal for shipment, was contacted and it was determined that the tanks had been transported from the Lemon Creek area to their barge loading facility. Personnel at the barge facility noticed the odor and refused to ship the tanks. The tanks were returned to Amerigas and transferred to a storage location for treatment.

SOURCE CONTROL: The tanks were capped by Amerigas personnel to prevent any further release of mercaptan odor.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Air quality over a large area was affected by this incident. Individuals throughout the Lemon Creek area and downtown have reported a strong smell of propane. The odor has apparently started to dissipate.

No impacts to wildlife were noted during this incident.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC will continue monitoring the situation.

WEATHER: Temperatures in the mid-forties, winds NE 5 to 10 mph with rain.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander:	Brian Rosson, AmeriGas Propane Service
S.O.S.C.:	Bob Mattson (ADEC)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Scot Tiernan at (907) 465-5378

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

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

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
ADF&G	Mark Fink	Email	Sent via Spill Report Group	267-2338	267-2464
ADNR	Doug Sanvik	Email	Sent via Spill Report Group	465-3400	465-3513
USCG (MSO Juneau)	CDR John Sifling	Email	jsifling@cgalaska.uscg.mil	463-2453	463-2445
USCG (MSO Juneau)	Lt. Gary Koehler	Email	gkoehler@cgalaska.uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
EPA	Matt Carr	Email	Sent via Spill Report Group	271-3616	271-3424
Other	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate Dist.B	Kim Elton	Fax		465-4947	465-2108
House Dist. 3	Beth Kerttula	Fax		465-4766	465-4748
House Dist. 4	Bruce Weyhrauch	Fax		465-3744	465-2273
City Borough of Juneau	Rod Swope, City Mgr.	Fax		586-5240	586-5385
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
103 rd Civil Support Team (Alaska National Guard)	Brett Meyer	Email	Brett.meyer@ak.ngb.army.mil	384-9401	384-9414
	Tod Perkins	Email	Tod.perkins@ngb.army.mil	384-9403	384-9414
Fairbanks Hazmat	Tyler Bones	Email	Tyler.bones@williams.com	488-5180	
	Jim Maltby	Email	maltby@awe.lynden.com	452-4355	
Valdez Hazmat	George Keeney	Email	gkeeney@ci.valdez.ak.us	835-4314	835-2992
Kodiak Hazmat	Andy Nault	Email	anault@city.kodiak.ak.us	486-8040	
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