

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** BPXA L-1 Test-Header Pipeline Leak

**SITREP #:** 1

**SPILL NUMBER:** 11399919701

**LEDGER CODE:** Pending

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** BP Exploration Alaska (BPXA) subcontractor employees discovered a spill of methanol and produced fluids (60/40) at the Lisburne Production Facility at 03:28 AM on July 16, 2011. The spill was reported to the Alaska State Troopers at 04:05 AM. Alaska State Troopers reported the spill to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation at 04:10 AM.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 3:00 PM on July 17, 2011

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** This is the first situation report; further reports as warranted.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** BPXA estimated 2100 – 4200 gallons (50 -100 bbl) of a 60/40 methanol/produced fluid blend, with an undetermined amount of crude oil within the produced fluids, released onto a gravel pad and a freshwater tundra pond.

**LOCATION:** Lisburne Production Facility Drill Site L-1, Prudhoe Bay.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** During the Lisburne Production Center annual shut-in, an eight-inch test-header pipeline, with a 100 barrel potential capacity, released in an underground section at a roadway crossing at the L-1 drill site. The pipeline is sleeved within a larger pipe structural casing through which the spilled fluids were released at each end. The failure of the pipeline occurred during a leak test intended to check newly- installed valves. The pipeline pressure reached 949 psi and then failed. The fluids released vertically onto the gravel drill pad and horizontally onto tundra and ephemeral pond water.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** BP Exploration, Alaska (BPXA)

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The L-1 drill site operator responded to the incident by opening a valve that allowed the pipe pressure to return to an atmospheric static condition. Safety staff assessed the health and safety conditions by performing specific air monitoring tests and collecting gravel samples to determine flash point conditions.

Eight spill responders installed absorbent and shore-seal boom around the release on the tundra and marked out the impacted area on the drill site gravel pad. Passive wildlife hazing resources were installed, although no wildlife or migratory waterfowl have been observed. Vacuum trucks were brought into the response and recovered 15 barrels of spilled liquids from the tundra. Spill responders initiated a flush and recovery tactic using ambient-temperature, low-pressure water delivered to the most heavily affected areas of the tundra. Portable tanks were brought to the site to hold recovered fluids. A solid waste management cell was dedicated for gravel removed from the drill pad.

BPXA stood up a Tier I incident command structure and currently is operating with objectives approved by federal and State coordinators. BPXA is formalizing the cleanup, waste management, and tundra rehabilitation plans for ADEC approval.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Pad operator opened a valve that released the pressurized fluids into the production center tankage, thereby controlling the source.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Approximately 2,040 square feet of wet and aquatic tundra and approximately 4,960 square feet of gravel pad. Although Prudhoe Bay is approximately 800 feet from the spill site, there is no evidence that the released product has migrated away from the area adjacent to the pad.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Remove methanol, oil-stain tundra, and contaminated gravel from the drill pad. Complete the causal factor investigation and restore the drill site to production. While the L-1 drill site will remain shut-in, this incident will not delay the restart condition for the Lisburne Production Center. Analytical samples shall be used to assess cleanup.

**WEATHER:** Initial incident conditions Temp 46°F, winds at 19 mph from the East.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Jeff Clopton, Onshore Site Manager, BPXA Lisburne Production Center

F.O.S.C.: Captain Jason Fosdick

S.O.S.C.: Tom DeRuyter

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Ebel at 907-687-1921

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The situation report 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, ADNRR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFO	TELEPHONE	FAX
ADNR	Gary Schultz/ Melissa Head	Fax		451-2732/ 451-2719/ 451-2724	451-2751 or 659-2965
AF&G (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Email		459-7285 or 459-7279	459-7303
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
Coast Guard	Captain Fosdick	Fax			271-6751
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Steve Mulder	Email		451-2811/451-2914	451-2985/ 278-7022
Governor's Office (Fairbanks)	Parnell/Campbell	Email		451-2920	451-2858
Lt. Governor's Office (Juneau)	Parnell/Campbell	Email			465-5400
Senator Murkowski's Washington DC Office	Chief of Staff	Email	North Slope only	(202) 224-6665	(202) 224-5301
Senator Murkowski's Office in Fairbanks		Email	North Slope only	456-0233	451-7146
Legislator (Senate F)	John Coghill, Jr. (R)	Email	North Pole	465-4797 or (800) 860-4797	465-3884
Legislator (Senate T)	Donnie Olson (D)	Email	Nome	465-3707	465-4821
Legislator (House 12)	Eric Feige	Email	Valdez	269-0129	269-0128
Legislator (House 40)	Reggie Joule (D)	Email	Kotzebue	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586
North Slope Borough	Edward Sagaan Itta	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
North Slope Borough	Dan Forster	Fax	Planning Director	852-0440	852-5991



Lisburne Production Center L-1 drill site viewing north at the release point at the pipeline road crossing.



Viewing road crossing at pipeline release.