



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program  
***SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)***

**CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED**

## **MP317 Richardson Hwy US Army Tanker Rollover**



**SITREP #:** 3

**SPILL #:** 18309906301

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 5:00 p.m. March 16, 2018

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** United States Army.

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Milepost 317.3 Richardson Highway, approximately 45 miles South of Fairbanks. The main release occurred at the bottom of a steep embankment adjacent to the highway (the "lower spill area"), but additional release locations are being investigated closer to the paved road surface (the "upper spill area").

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The incident occurred at approximately 2:22 p.m., March 4, 2018.

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** The release was reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) by the Alaska State Troopers through the afterhours spill line at 3:20 p.m. on March 4, 2018.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** An estimated 600-825 gallons of Jet Propellant 8 (JP-8) was released.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** A United States Army (US Army) owned and operated Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) tanker hauling an estimated 1,800-1,900 gallons of JP-8 when it departed the roadway, rolled over and slid partially down the west embankment of the highway. The pressure increase inside the tanker triggered a pressure relief valve on the rear hatch of the tanker, causing the majority of the fuel release.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The source has been controlled at this time.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Initial response actions conducted on March 4 included containing some fuel released from the pressure relief valve on the rear hatch of the tanker. Responders righted the damaged tanker, winched it closer to the shoulder of the road, and lightered the fuel from it to another tanker. The U.S. Army removed the damaged tanker from the site around 3:00 p.m. on March 5 using a Stryker Recovery Vehicle. Personnel from ADEC, Fort Wainwright Department of Public Works, and U.S. Army spill response contractor Paragon-Jacobs conducted an initial delineation and site assessment effort on March 5.

During March 6 through March 9 additional Paragon-Jacobs personnel and resources mobilized to the site, and equipment (two excavators and one dozer) arrived to initiate remedial activities. From March 10 through March 13, Paragon-Jacobs personnel constructed two temporary ramps out of borrow material to safely access the "lower spill area", cleared trees within the delineated areas, removed contaminated snow, and delineated the

“upper spill area”. During this time frame, several questions about easements, right-of-ways, potential utility interference, and property ownership were evaluated by the affected stakeholders (ADEC, ADOT&PF, ADNR, and one private property owner). The various agencies and the potentially affected land owner have reviewed and approved the Traffic Control Plan, Response Plan, as well as the Lane Closure Permit provided by the U.S. Army on March 7, 2018.

On March 14, while excavating affected soils from the release area, groundwater was discovered at seven feet below ground surface. A petroleum based sheen was observed on the water surface, but not in any recoverable amount. A groundwater sample, used to determine concentrations of petroleum potentially dissolved in to the water column, was collected from the affected media on this date and will be shipped to an ADEC approved laboratory for analysis. A test pit (used to delineate potentially affected subsurface soils and groundwater) was excavated approximately 25 feet downgradient from the initially identified release area on March 15, but no contaminated soil or groundwater was detected. On March 16, a trench was excavated approximately 25 feet downgradient of the initial excavation in an attempt to intercept any product migrating through the subsurface. No additional contamination was discovered on this date.

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** To date, only Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) right-of-way is known to have been impacted. ADOT&PF personnel has been assisting the response effort by reviewing and approving various documents to allow for the U.S. Army and Paragon-Jacobs to conduct required response actions. An unnamed chute cutoff channel connected to the Tanana River is within 60 feet from the delineated “lower spill area”. This chute cutoff channel, regardless of the physical ability, is considered navigable and the submerged lands of said channel are property of the State of Alaska and fall under the jurisdiction of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR). ADNR personnel has visited the spill site and are also actively engaged in the response and ready to provide permits, as needed, for access and activities relating to response actions within the chute cutoff channel and Tanana River. The land southwest of the chute cutoff channel (please see figure below) is private property. A right of entry (ROE) agreement between the private property owners and the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright is being secured by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Migration of contaminants from the spill site could impact the unnamed chute cutoff channel and the Tanana River during a thaw event. The Tanana River is considered an anadromous water body, and is of particular concern due to the various species of fish that may be present. Clean up work in the area will impact travel along the Richardson Highway.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** ADEC will continue to oversee response actions and work with the U.S. Army, as well as the other affected stakeholders, to modify response plans if conditions warrant.

**WEATHER:** Tonight: Mostly cloudy; low 13°F; winds light and variable. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy; high 36°F; winds light and variable.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Eric Dick, US Army  
SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC  
FOSC: Bob Whittier, EPA  
Field SOSC: Patrik Sartz, ADEC

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** As the situation warrants.



**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom DeRuyter, SOSC, ADEC (907) 451-2145

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/sum-fy18/20180307-318-richardson/>



Aerial view of spill site on March 16 2018, facing down. The area known contain affected soils and groundwater is located inside the red exclusion tape. Interception tactics had been completed at this time, and clean soils stockpiled adjacent to the trench (Photo/ADNR).

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed March 6 2018, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.