

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Silver Bay Seafoods Anhydrous Ammonia Release **SITREP #:** 1 and final **UPDATED**

SPILL NUMBER: 11119920202

LEDGER CODE: Requested

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The release occurred at 8:02 PM on July 21, 2011. The incident was reported to ADEC by Silver Bay Seafoods at 9:28 PM.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 9:30 AM on July 22, 2011

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Silver Bay Seafoods estimates that less than 100 pounds of anhydrous ammonia was released. Silver Bay Seafoods will continue to investigate the release to better determine the volume discharged.

LOCATION: The Silver Bay Seafoods processing plant is located on Sawmill Creek Road in Sitka, Alaska.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The cause of the release is still under investigation. Initial reports from Silver Bay Seafoods indicate that a pressure relief valve may have malfunctioned causing the release.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Silver Bay Seafoods, LLC

RESPONSE ACTION: A release of anhydrous ammonia was noted by employees at the Silver Bay Seafoods processing plant around 8:00 PM on July 21. Silver Bay Seafoods immediately initiated an evacuation of the processing plant and the surrounding bunk houses. All of the approximately 240 employees were safely evacuated from the processing plant and bunk houses. 15 people were taken to the local clinic from the facility for evaluation after developing symptoms of anhydrous ammonia exposure. Two additional employees were also taken to the clinic for unrelated injuries. All of the employees were released from the clinic by 12:30 AM July 22.

Doors were opened around the Silver Bay Seafoods processing plant and facility to dissipate the anhydrous ammonia. By 10:00 PM on July 21 the plant was determined safe for re-entry following a joint walk through with Silver Bay Seafoods and the Sitka Fire Department. The system included redundant relief valves allowing the plant to return to operation at 12:30 AM, July 22.

Anhydrous ammonia is used in the refrigeration system of many fish processing plants. Anhydrous ammonia is a gas at atmospheric pressure and is lighter than air causing it to rise away from the source. Exposure to sufficient concentrations can cause irritation and corrosive burns on the skin and respiratory tract. Extreme exposure may result in death.

SOURCE CONTROL: The source of the release was controlled by Silver Bay Seafoods at 8:30 PM on July 21.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Air quality in and around the Silver Bay Seafoods plant was impacted for several hours following the release.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Silver Bay Seafoods will continue to investigate the cause of the release.

WEATHER: Clouds will increase today with high temperatures around 65°F. Light winds will become southeast at 10mph this afternoon. Tomorrow will be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain and low temperatures around 52°F. East winds will be 10 to 15 mph tomorrow.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

S.O.S.C.: Bob Fultz, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Moore, ADEC (907) 465-5239

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

AGENCY	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Silver Bay Seafoods, LLC	Rich Riggs	Email			
Senate Dist. A	Senator Bert Stedman	E-mail	senator_bert_stedman@legis.state.ak.us	465-3873	465-3922
House Dist. 2	Representative Peggy Wilson	Fax	session	465-3824; 874-3088	465-3175; 874-3055
USCG (MSD Sitka)	John Grez	Email	John.M.Grez@uscg.mil	966-5454	966-5457
USCG (Sector Juneau)	MSTC James Highfill	Email	James.L.Highfill@uscg.mil	463-2461	
USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer	Env. Engineer Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5896
USDA Forest Service - Sitka Ranger District	District Ranger Carol Goularte	Email	cgoularte@fs.fed.us	747-6671	747-4253
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Joe Hitselberger	Email	joe.hitselberger@alaska.gov	465-4346	465-4759
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	Chairman Lawrence Widmark, Jr.	Fax	webmaster@sitkatribes.org	747-3207	747-4915
City and Borough of Sitka	Mayor Cheryl Westover	Fax	colleen@cityofsitka.com	747-3294	747-7403
SEAPRO	General Manager Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
Sitka Fire Department	Dave Miller, Fire Chief	Email	Davem@cityofsitka.com		