



**ANNUAL REPORT  
ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (ARRT)  
CY 2009**

**I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

**A. Major/Noteworthy Response Activities:**

1. M/V Monarch Sinking: On January 16<sup>th</sup> 2009, the M/V Monarch sank in Cook Inlet, Alaska next to the Granite Point Oil/Gas Platform after being pinned by heavy ice and forced underwater. M/V Monarch contained 35,000 to 38,000 gallons of diesel fuel, unknown volume of hydraulic and lube oils, plus several totes and drums of chemicals manifested for delivery to platforms. The responsible party is Offshore Systems Incorporated (OSI) Kenai, Alaska. The vessel sank and settled upright near the Southwest Leg of the platform and very close to one of the incoming pipelines. An incident command post was established in Kenai, Alaska. Due to the extreme ice conditions and high currents in Cook Inlet, no clean-up or salvage operations could be safely conducted. The Unified Command suspended operations on January 20, 2009. Fuel recovery operations resumed on May 1, 2009 and were completed on August 18, 2009 with approximately 12,500 gallons of diesel fuel recovered. Several ARRT members participated in the Unified Command and recovery operations. Additional information is online at the Unified Command's website:  
[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sr\\_fy09.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sr_fy09.htm)
2. M/V Mar-gun Grounding: On March 5<sup>th</sup> 2009, the M/V Mar-Gun grounded on North side of St George Island in the Pribilofs with 17,000 gallons of diesel fuel onboard. The vessel went aground within a Marine Wildlife Sanctuary and adjacent to a Fur Seal Rookery. An incident—specific ARRT was activated to address Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) sites once the vessel was removed from the Sanctuary. The responsible party is Margun Enterprises, LLC. On May 15, the vessel was safely towed from St George Island to Dutch Harbor where it underwent repair.
3. LPC-LO3 Pipeline Spill: On November 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, a pipeline release was discovered approximately 1.5 miles east of the Lisburne Production Center (LPC) in Prudhoe Bay, North Slope, Alaska. The release was from an 18-inch above ground flow line, which normally carries a combination of oil, water and natural gas from several wells to the



LPC. EPA OSCs mobilized to the scene and formed a Unified Command with the responsible party, BP Exploration Alaska (BPXA), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and the North Slope Borough. An area of approximately 10,000 square feet was impacted. The total volume of discharged oily material is estimated at 45,828 gallons based upon Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data. The investigation of the cause of the spill is ongoing; an over pressurization rupture as a result of ice plugging is suspected. Environmental impacts to the area appear to have been limited by cold weather and adjacent gravel road and natural barriers, which prevented the release from affecting a larger area. Cleanup operations included excavation of oiled snow; removal of product and oily liquids via steaming, flushing, and vacuum recovery; and trimming of oiled tundra vegetation. The tundra rehabilitation and sampling plans are in the process of being finalized. EPA OSCs plan to visit the site in June to inspect for any traces of oil sheen and potentially close out the site. Contact OSC Matthew Carr Region 10 AOO for information. Additional information is online at the Unified Command's website:

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy10/091129301/091129301\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy10/091129301/091129301_index.htm)

4. Drift River Terminal (MT REDOUBT eruption) Mar 09: Mount Redoubt initially erupted on March 22, 2009 at 10:38 PM, followed by several other eruptions, with the most significant occurring on April 4, 2009. The resultant lahars (or volcanic mudflows) caused extensive flooding at the Drift River Oil Terminal (DROT). Terminal initially had approximately 160K BBLs (6.97 million gallons) of crude oil during the initial eruptions and lahars. However, no oil or hazardous substance releases occurred from either of the two operational tanks. No major damage to the protective tertiary dike system or the individual tank secondary containment systems occurred, although the lahars flooding did top the 50ft protective dike system causing minor flooding within the containment dikes. The responsible party (RP), Cook Inlet Pipe Line Company (CIPL) discontinued the use of the facility for bulk storage due to the level of mud around the facility. On August 7, 2009, CIPL completed removal of oil and water from tanks 1, 2, and 3. Removal of all oil and water was not feasible due to current operating conditions. Tanks 1 and 2 were taken out of service and flanged off after feasible amounts of oil and water were removed. Currently, tanks 1 and 2 each contain 1,396 bbls of oil and 4,636 bbls of water. The volume in Tank 3 was reduced to 999 bbls of oil. Pipeline operations resumed with crude oil shipped through CIPL's 42-mile pipeline to the Christy Lee platform for direct loading onto tankers.
5. Other Response Activities: Overall 30 response summaries were completed and posted on the State of Alaska website for minor spills. A complete list of all response activities is online at the Unified Command's website:  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/index.htm> (under Active Response and FY09/10).

## **B. RRT Meetings/Incident Specific Activation:**



Meeting: Administration Session - February 17, 2009 in Juneau: USCG-coordinated: 19 persons attended; 8 of 14 ARRT member agencies attended. The purpose of the session was to allow ARRT members to discuss issues regarding internal management and organization of the Alaska Regional Response Team. The Admin session provided interested ARRT members with the opportunity to review the Charter and propose revisions and engage in discussion regarding the use of the provisions of the Charter by the entire ARRT. The two hour meeting ended with the first 4 articles reviewed and a follow-up, all day session, scheduled during the July meeting.

Meeting: Semi-annual Public Session - February 18, 2009 in Juneau: USCG-coordinated: 38 persons attended; 9 of 14 ARRT member agencies attended. Special presentation given on the following topics: Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) Presentation on Council's goals/projects for 2009; Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) Presentation on Council's goals/projects for 2009; Report on North by 2020 Offshore Oil & Gas Exploration Workshop by Dr. Hajo Eicken Geophysical Institute University of Alaska Fairbanks; Lingering oil and continuing effects from Exxon Valdez (Would Dispersants Have Helped?) by Dr. Jeep Rice, NOAA; Using Shore Zone as a tool for first responders, by Mandy Lindeberg, NOAA; (Ratification) of Rat Island in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge in the Aleutian Islands by Mr. Kent Sundseth, Aleutian Islands Unit Manager Alaska Maritime NWR.

Activation: March 06, 2009: Fishing Vessel MARGUN Aground ST George Island (PRIBILOFS): USCG chaired; An Incident-specific activation occurred at the request of the FOSC (Sector Anchorage) to identify Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) to move the stricken vessel for temporary repairs and transit to a shipyard. Primary ARRT attendees: EPA, USCG, ADEC, DOI, and DOC.

Meeting: Administration Session - July 30, 2009 in Anchorage: USCG-coordinated: 20 persons attended; 7 of 14 ARRT member agencies attended. This Admin session provided interested ARRT members with the opportunity to continue the review of the ARRT Charter started at the Feb 09 meeting. The eight hour meeting ended with 90% of the charter reviewed. A follow-up session was scheduled in November 2009.

Meeting: Semi-annual Public Session - July 31, 2009 in Anchorage: USCG-coordinated: 47 attended; 9 of 14 ARRT member agencies attended. Special presentation given on the following topics: Response to Mt. Redoubt (how we went from ash advisories to Unified Command and next steps) by Mr. Gary Folley, ADEC; FEMA Disaster Response Yukon River/Alaska by Mr. Robert Forgit, Supervisor Alaska Region, FEMA; Arctic Council Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response WG Action Plan, by Dr. Walter B. Parker, Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force; Aleutian Risk Assessment,



Status, Future Plans/Actions; by CDR Robert Robertson, USCG D17; Alaska Mass Rescue Operation exercise report out, by Mr. Rick Janelle, USCG D17 Passenger Vessel Safety Program Manager.

Meeting: Administration Session – November 16, 2009 in Anchorage; EPA-coordinated: 8 persons attended; 4 of 14 ARRT member agencies attended. This Admin session provided interested ARRT members with the opportunity to continue the review of the ARRT Charter started at the July 09 meeting. The ARRT Charter was completely reviewed and amended as needed. Final Charter to be presented to ARRT during Semi-annual meeting scheduled for January 2010.

### **C. Committee and Working Group Updates:**

Science and Technology Committee February 5, 2009 in Anchorage: USCG-coordinated. 13 persons attended: 4 of 5 ARRT member agencies attended. Committee met to discuss the Dispersant Proposal submitted by Dr. John Whitney, the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) for Alaska. Committee agreed to continue Work Group on Dispersants and set up a stakeholder meeting for May 2009.

Science and Technology Committee May 22, 2009 in Anchorage: USCG-coordinated 17 persons attended. 5 of 5 ARRT member agencies attended. The purpose of the meeting was to update potential Stakeholders on the proposed Dispersant workgroup and to seek input from Stakeholders on the way ahead. The committee sought Stakeholder comment letters and received comments from 9 Stakeholders. All letters received were posted at: <http://www.akrrt.org/meetings.shtml> for review.

Statewide (HazMat) Response WG: ADEC-coordinated, met February 10<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage. WG held four training sessions throughout Alaska. Additional information is online at the DEC/SPAR website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/hazmat.htm>.

## **II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

### **A. Training:**

- EPA sponsored a 40-Hour Health and Safety Course for first responders, industry, and Federal and State agencies including ARRT members.



- EPA Alaska Operations Office (AOO) Emergency Response Unit sponsored two trainings for Matsu-Borough HAZMAT responders regarding response considerations for chlorine and ammonia releases.
- EPA AOO Emergency Response Unit sponsored a one day session covering ICS awareness, contingency planning, and oil response tactics to tribal representatives at the EPA-sponsored Fall IGAP session in Anchorage. EPA also conducted an 8-hour HAZWOPER refresher for tribal representatives the following day during this training event.
- EPA AOO Emergency Response Unit sponsored three, 1-day courses on Hazard Identification of unknown chemicals for Statewide Hazmat Team personnel on December 9 – 11, 2009. A total of 38 hazmat team members from area fire departments attended the course.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District (CGD17) Response Advisory Team (DRAT) conducted 19 HAZWOPER classes (i.e. combination of All Hazards/WMD Awareness and Oil Operations Levels) throughout Alaska. 413 Coast Guard members and 86 personnel from other federal and state agencies attended. In addition, DRAT sponsored the following ICS courses: 601 (1), 400 (3), 340 (1), 320 (1), 300 (2) and 210 (1). Training courses (courses were taught by U.S. Coast Guard D17, PACAREA instructors) were held in the cities of Anchorage and Juneau. DRAT sponsored /participated in the NOAA Science of Oil Spills Workshop in Seattle and the annual Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV) ICE training in Anchorage.
- The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducted a 1 day Humpback Whale disentanglement course for SECTOR JUNEAU in July 09. This new program has been initiated by NOAA for SE Alaska. SECTOR JUNEAU has assisted NMFS in one (1) Humpback Whale disentanglement response this year.
- MSU VALDEZ hosted an Alaska Oil Spill Seminar in Valdez, AK for Federal, State, Local government Agencies, including ARRT members, Industry & Community Partners.
- Ammonia Training (March 2009-Juneau): DEC staff sponsored the Emergency Response and Safe Handling of Ammonia training course held in Juneau. Approximately 25-30 emergency responders attended the course which featured classroom instruction, a functional exercise, and a live release demonstration of ammonia.

## **B. Exercises/Workshops:**



National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Exercises.

- Southeast Alaska Area Exercise. Industry led; with representatives included: USCG, ADEC, ADNRR, ADF&G, USFWS, SEAPRO (OSRO), Petro Marine (lead planner) and NOAA. Over 50 people attended the exercise including ARRT members. The scenario involved a simulated release of 5,000 gallons of Jet fuel and 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel from the Petro Marine terminal in Skagway, AK. The exercise focused on the Incident Command Post organization and security of the command post. A limited field deployment exercise was held the following day and featured about 1,000 feet of harbor boom and a skimmer r deployment in Skagway harbor.
- MASS RESCUE Exercise: USCG coordinated. Scenario included large cruise ship grounding with minor oil discharge. Focus of exercise was passenger accountability and life raft training. Exercise held in three locations simultaneously; Ketchikan (on-water), Seattle (Holland America Command post) and USCG D17 (SAR) coordination. Exercise involved local Community Partners and EMS in Ketchikan, AK. USCG ARRT coordinator simulated ARRT activation to discuss Potential Place of Refuge for stricken vessel.
- TAPS Tanker Drill/Exercise: ADEC and Coast Guard coordinated. Table top focused with no equipment deployed. Exercise Scenario included a collision between a Polar Tankers, Inc vessel and an unknown vessel resulting in a discharge of 100K bbls of crude oil in the PWS shipping lanes. USCG ARRT coordinator simulated ARRT activation to discuss use of dispersants.
- North Slope Mutual Aid Drill (August 2009): This field deployment exercise was sponsored by Pioneer Natural Resource Development, Inc. The drill simulated a 2,500-bbl release of crude oil from the Oooguruk offshore facility with 250 bbls entering the water. Participants included the Coast Guard, ADEC, Pioneer, Alaska Clean Seas, North Slope Borough, and other federal and state agencies.
- ExxonMobil Pt Thompson Spill Drill (September 2009): The tabletop exercise simulated a fuel barge spill at Pt Thompson during a fuel transfer operation. Participants included the Coast Guard, ADEC, ExxonMobil staff, Alaska Clean Seas, NOAA, North Slope Borough, and other federal and state agencies. A field deployment exercise was held several weeks later.
- PREP Government Initiated Unannounced Drills (GIUs). COTP initiated: five (5) of ten (10) annual unannounced drills in COTP JUNEAU and VALDEZ zone were conducted.





- PREP Equipment Deployments Exercise: Ten (10) equipment deployments occurred throughout the three COTP zones. Type listed below:
  - Alaska Aerial Dispersant Delivery System (ADDS) Deployments in Anchorage and Kodiak.
  - Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) Deployment.
    - CGC Anthony Petit Prince Rupert, BC in conjunction with International Exercise (Can USDIX);
  - Spilled Oil Recovery System (SORS) Deployments:
    - CGC Maple in Sitka, AK;
    - CGC Hickory in Homer, AK;
    - CGC Spar in Nome, AK;
    - CGC Sycamore in Cordova, AK;
  - Internal Pre-staged Equipment Deployments:
    - Sector Juneau in Sitka, AK;
    - Sector Anchorage in Kenai & Homer, AK;
    - Sector Anchorage in Unalaska, AK;
    - MSU Valdez in Cordova, AK

### **C. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts:**

Alaska Unified Plan. ADEC, Coast Guard and EPA-coordinated, joint work group (WG) completed major update (Change-3) to the plan. Change 3 has been through public review. WG completed updates in response to public review comments and submitted the revised plan to the ARRT for review before final approval and publication in 2010.

Alaska Subarea Contingency Plans (SCPs). ADEC-Coast Guard, and EPA coordinated, joint WGs published Change-1 to the Aleutian SCP, and drafted Change-2 to the Kodiak SCP. The Kodiak SCP is expected to be published in January/February 2010. Initial planning meetings to be held for the following SCPs in 2010: Bristol Bay, Northwest Arctic and Western Alaska. Bristol Bay and Northwest Arctic subareas have the highest priority due to proposed offshore oil and gas development in these areas.

Geographic Response Strategies (GRSs). ADEC-coordinated, participated with industry and the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) to conduct field visits and validate new GRS for Prince William Sound. Additional GRS are planned for development for the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bristol Bay, and Western Alaska, pending availability of funding.



Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) Guidelines. ADEC and Coast Guard coordinated, and developed initial PPORs for Southeast Alaska. Phase 2 of this project was initiated in November 2009, with overall project completion planned by June 30, 2010. Detailed information on the PPOR guidelines and process can be accessed at: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/index.htm> (under special projects). In addition, minor PPOR administrative changes were completed for PWS, Cook Inlet and Aleutian SCPs.

Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC). EPA-coordinated, conducted SPCC outreach regarding the revised SPCC regulations on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Anchorage. Members of EPA Headquarters' rule-making staff assisted Alaska-based OSCs in conducting the outreach session which was attended by 96 personnel, consisting of facility representatives, private consultants, and government personnel.

**D. Major Best Practices from Responses, Trainings, Exercises/ Workshops and Other RRT Activities: N/A.**

**III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

New Rep	Organization	Date	Departed Rep
Carl Uchytel (Capt)	CGD17 (DX) USCG ARRT Co-chair (Juneau, AK)	07/01/2009	Michael Cerne (Capt)
Bob Mattson	Alaska Department of Conservation (ADEC) State Representative	06/08/2008	Leslie Pearson
Michele Sherwood	EPA ARRT Coordinator Region 10 AOO	07/01/2009	Mary Goolie

**IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION**

**Issue:** DOI Pre-Approval rescission letter concerning use of dispersants dated: September 26, 2008.

**Issue:** ARRT letter to NRT dated September 10, 2009 requesting the NRT re-evaluate the 1995 guidance containing recommended limits for short term exposure to particulate matter (PM) and potential impacts to safe distances in guidance for In Situ Burning as an alternative countermeasure.