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JOINT INFORMATION CENTER NEWS RELEASE

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SPILL RESPONSE CONTINUES AT DRIFT RIVER TERMINAL FOLLOWING TWO-TANK RUPTURE

NIKISKI, ALASKA — Responders from Hilcorp Alaska, United States Coast Guard (USCG), and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) are continuing coordinated oil spill response efforts involving a two-tank rupture at the Drift River Terminal on the west side of Cook Inlet. The source of the spill has been controlled; however, a containment berm was breached and an oil sheen has been reported in Cook Inlet near the terminal.

Responders are working to repair the breached berm and have deployed sorbent boom in the water to collect oil. Additional berms have been constructed to contain the spill and Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) and Ocean Marine Service, Inc. (OMSI) vessels are on site. Responders are also operating a vacuum truck to recover oil and additional spill response resources are being barged to the terminal.

Responders reported that an oiled porcupine had to be dispatched and six oiled birds were sighted in Cook Inlet near the facility following contact with the spill on land. Wildlife specialists are en route to the terminal and an overflight is currently being conducted with wildlife observers from International Bird Rescue and ADEC.

At 4:35 AM, operators at the terminal discovered an apparent rupture of tanks 3 and 4. The cause of the rupture is unknown. The majority of the oil was caught in the secondary containment area in the tank farm and an unknown volume moved beyond secondary containment to nearby drainage ditches.

Unified Command is committed to ensuring the safety of responders, facility personnel, and the public; stabilizing the incident; and protecting environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife. A Joint Information Center will be providing the public with timely and accurate incident information via a response website. Please refer to the response website at www.xxxxxxxxx.com/driftriverterminal. Citizens seeking information on the response may also call 1-800-XXX-XXXX.

This is a developing situation, and further updates will be made as soon as more information is available.

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Media can reach the Joint Information Center by contacting: Unified Command – Joint Information Center 907-776-7431 DRTRESPONSE@ALASKA.GOV