

Response
to the
M/V KUROSHIMA
Grounding and Oil Spill

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Outline of topics

- Overview of Western Alaska
- Kuroshima description
- Events leading to the grounding
- Rescue of the crew
- Initial response to the spill
- Issues for the first phase of cleanup
- Present status & plans

Western Alaska Zone

- More shoreline than the lower 48 combined
- 4000 miles of navigable rivers
- 600K inhabitants
- Main office and 3 detachments
 - Kenai
 - Kodiak
 - Unalaska 800 air miles from Anchorage

M/V Kuroshima

- 4160 GT reefer ship
- Built in 1986
- 368 feet LOA
- NKK classed
- Panama Flag

Events Leading to the Grounding

- 26 NOV-mid afternoon Near the end of a storm, a fully developed sea begins to impact KUROSHIMA at anchor off Summer Bay.
- An attempt to haul in the anchor results in fatal injuries to 2 crew as a wave washes over the bow.
- During the next attempt, the KUROSHIMA lost control and broached in heavy surf. She grounded in the vicinity of Second Priest Rock, lost power and was driven to the back of Summer Bay.



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Rescue of the Crew

- Residents of Unalaska, a rescue and assistance detail from the CGC MIDGETT and the crew of MSD Unalaska staged on the shore in Summer Bay.
 - Launch of the helicopter was aborted when it was learned the two injured crew were already dead.

Rescue (cont'd)

- Local salvor Dan Magone paddled out to the KUROSHIMA, boarded and helped coach the crew to prepare to abandon ship.
- He and LT Chris Woodle of the MSD developed the rescue plan over the radio.
- The crew was lowered to the water in the ship's port lifeboat and hauled ashore by the rescue team.



Initial Spill Response

- Late afternoon 27 NOV. The City provided the most valuable first response to the spill. Heavy equipment was brought in to build a dike across the mouth of Summer Lake, thus preventing additional oiling of the lake.
- Aircraft loads of equipment were ordered and staged. A team of State and CG personnel prepared to fly out.



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28 NOV

- CG & ADEC command, operations and planning team arrived on scene early PM.
- RP operations team arrived at the same time. Others followed the next day.

Issues

- No vessel response plan
- Getting ICS off the ground
 - Understaffed & mixed organization
 - Logistics
 - Plans vs OPS driven
- Worker Safety
- Lightering and salvage

More Issues

- Cultural resources
- Shoreline cleanup
- Community and Public Affairs

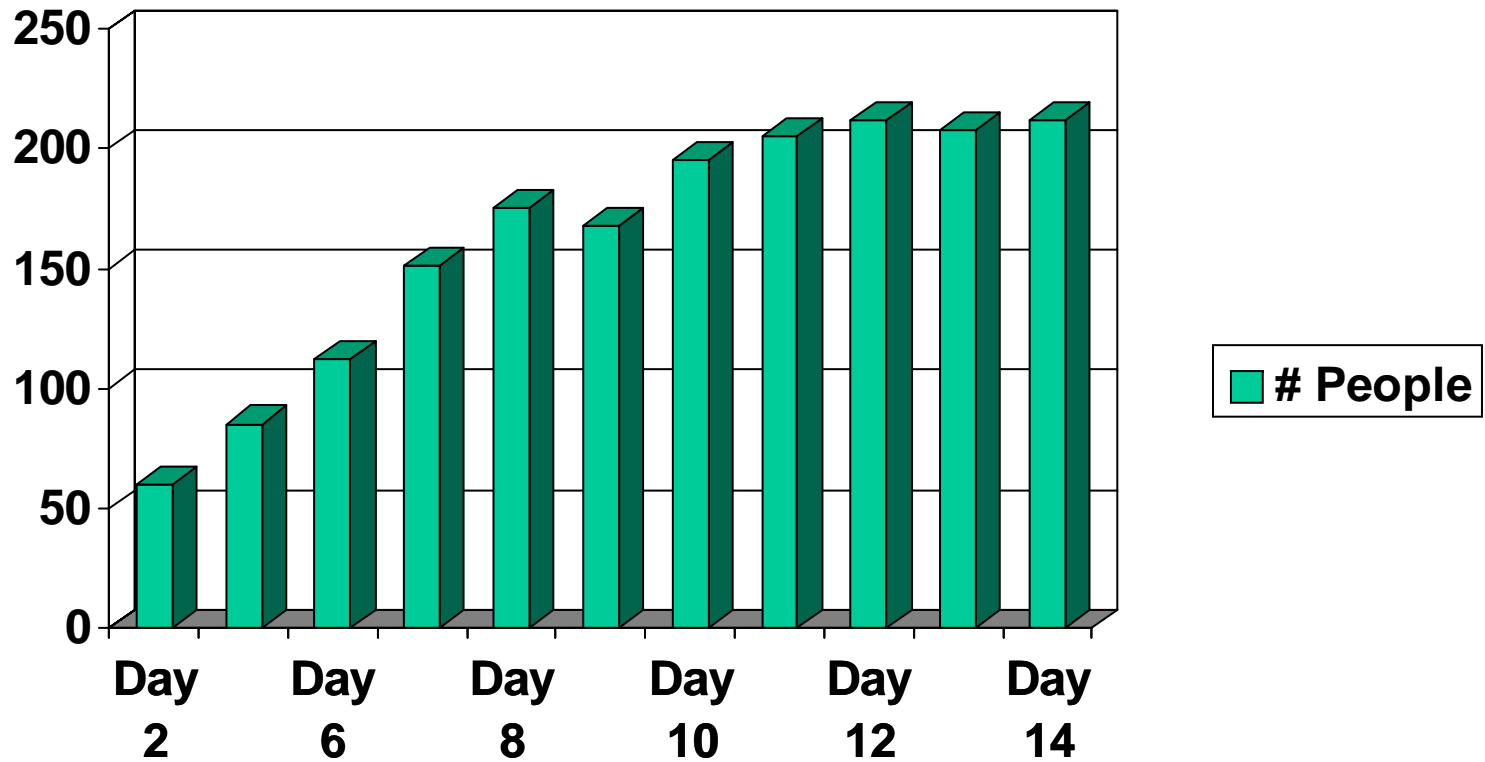
No Vessel Response Plan

- None required by OPA90 or State Law
 - No pre-established spill management team.
 - Corporation has no US presence.
 - No OSRO contract required.
 - 5700 bbl (239,400 gal) bunkers / 165,000 gal on board.
 - 680 bbl (28,560 gal) lube oil.
 - approx 39,000 gal spilled in this accident.

Understaffed & Mixed Organization

- UC was the same
- Planning Section was CG / ADEC - no RP
- OPS was CG for first 10 days
- Logistics was divided between Anchorage and Unalaska.
 - CG / ADEC / CHADUX
- Finance was CG & (maybe) RP

Manpower





Plans vs Ops Driven?

- Logistics constrained for the first 1 - 2 weeks.
- Plans took about 3 days to fully drive the response (some say 1-2, some say 1 week).

Worker Safety

- Only road to site required constant attention
 - rock slides & avalanches
- WX
 - snow pellets
 - ice storms
 - rain
- one slip, one broken nose



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Lightering and Salvage

- Early stages, couldn't tell if the vessel was on rock, gravel or sand.
- Built a tank farm to receive the oil
- Ship steam and fluid piping systems were extensively damaged
 - PST over the top transfer internally to an intact tank
 - Ship's pumps over the side to NAVSUPSALV booster - to tank farm

Lightering and Salvage (cont'd)

- Initial lightering pumped 46K gal off the vessel.
- Tank cleaning and additional lightering over 1.5 months removed another 80K gal
- Salvage completed 2 March.





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Cultural Resources

- New 'Programmatic Agreement'
- Native Corporation Land
- Rewriting Aleut history
- Oil contaminated site
- Other sites in impact area
- DOI ID'd archeologist to work on FOSC staff

Shoreline Cleanup

- Summer Lake
- Summer Bay shoreline
- Coastline up to Humpy and Morris Coves
- Initial response until late December
- Winter operations
- Spring re-SCAT and finish the job









Community & Public Affairs

- Three constituencies
 - Community via City Government
 - nightly fire house meetings open to public
 - Tuesday City Council meetings
 - daily ch8 brief
 - Native Corporation
 - attended public briefs + personal visits
 - Native Community
 - senior citizens' home
 - took us 2 weeks to 'connect'



Winter and into the Spring

- Shoreline cleanup suspended late December
 - Avalanches
 - Snow & ice coverage
 - Winter Maintenance Program
 - City Council reduced the briefs to every 3 wks
- Kuroshima pulled off the strand 1 March
- Clean up resumed mid April

Spring Cleanup

- Dive Survey and Lake Bottom Cleanup Survey
- First SCAT of Spring
- Second SCAT
- Unified Command returns
- UC Signs off 10 July



