Sturgeon River/US-41 Gasoline Spill Response

February 3, 2018
Chassell, Houghton County, MI
Spill Location
Immediate Community
Sturgeon River

- Traffic accident on US-41
- 4,000 gallons of gasoline and 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel
  - Roadway
  - Embankments
  - Surface of river
- River covered with ice and snow
Site Features

Map showing:
- Stockpile
- Command Center
- Spill
Response Organization

Incident Organization Chart (ICS 207)

1. Incident Name:
   Sturgeon River US-41 Gasoline Release

2. Operational Period:
   Date From: 02/12/2018
   Time From: 0830
   Date To: 02/12/2018
   Time To: 1900

3. Organization Chart
   
   Incident Commander(s)
   Ralph Dollhopf, US EPA
   Amy Keranen, MDEQ
   Rich Baron, Kenan Advantage
   Cathryn Beer, WUPHD
   Chris Van Arsdale, Houghton Cty EM

   Liaison Officer
   Not Assigned

   Safety Officer
   Tom Anthos, Trimedia

   Public Information Officer
   Rich Baron, Kenan Advantage

   Planning Section Chief
   Dan Capone, START

   Logistics Section Chief
   Tom Anthos, Trimedia

   Finance/Admin Section Chief
   Marlin Zechman, XL Catlin

   Operations Section Chief
   Tom Anthos, Trimedia

   Deputy
   Dan Capone, START

   River Assessment/Recovery Branch Director
   Mylan Koski, Trimedia

   Bank Recovery Branch Director
   Mylan Koski, Trimedia

   Air Monitoring/Sampling Branch
   Evan Birkett, START
1. Incident Name:
Sturgeon River US-41 Gasoline Spill

2. Operational Period:
Starting: February 11, 2018, 0830
End: February 11, 2018, 1900

3. Approved by Incident Commander(s):
Ralph Dollhopf, U.S. EPA
Amy Keranen, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Rich Baron, Kenan Advantage Group
Cathryn Beer, WUPHD
Chris Van Arsdale, Houghton County EM

Incident Action Plan
The items below are included in this Incident Action Plan:

- ICS 202 (Response Objectives)
- ICS 203 (Organization Assignment List)
- ICS 204 (Assignment List)
- ICS 207 (Organization Chart)
Unified Command Objectives

- Protect public safety
- Protect worker safety
- Remove product spilled onto the land
- Recover product from the river ice
- Assess potential downriver impacts
- Reopen all lanes of US-41
Air Monitoring
Air Monitoring – START
Initial On-Land Recovery
Product Recovery from Frozen River Surface
Under Ice Assessment
Assessment Team
Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Techniques (SCAT)

- Visual
- Real-Time VOC Readings
- Laboratory Analysis
On-Bank Recovery-Under Bridge
On-Bank Recovery-South Side
Transportation and Disposal

- Media Removed
  - 6,200 tons of soil to landfill
  - 9,300 gallons of liquids
Guardrail Replacement
Containment Measures

- Long-Term Boom
- Recovery Well
- Sheet Piling
- Agitator System to Prevent Ice Buildup
Restoration
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: Local Media
From: Western U.P. Health Department
Subject: Sturgeon River U.S. 41 Gasoline Spill
Date: Feb. 6, 2018

Cleanup Continues at Sturgeon River Accident

Local, state, and federal officials and private contractors are coordinating cleanup and environmental monitoring at the Sturgeon River Bridge on U.S. 41 south of Chassell, site of last Saturday’s four-vehicle accident.

Cleanup crews are removing soil and snow impacted by the gasoline and diesel fuel release.

Air quality monitoring and sampling has been conducted under the direction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the immediate area and adjacent homes.

Air quality monitoring also is being done near stockpiled snow and soil to verify that there are no immediate health and safety concerns for the community and workers.

Arrangements are being made to transport impacted materials off site for disposal so that the area can be backfilled and guardrail replaced.

The health department also received the following statement from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):

“The DEQ has evaluated all municipal drinking water intakes in the vicinity and none are threatened by the release of petroleum products from the accident on U.S. 41 near the Sturgeon River.

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EPA assessing impact of Chassell gas spill on Sturgeon River

CHASSELL, Mich. (WILUC) - Multiple entities are still at work cleaning up a gas spill south of Chassell after Saturday's fatal crash. Crews are working to assess and clean up more than four thousand gallons of gasoline. The gas spilled during a fatal 4-vehicle accident at the bridge over the Sturgeon River on US-41 in Chassell. Gas leached onto the road, into the snow and soil along the banks of the river and possibly into the river itself.

"(Cleanup is) kind of a slow process and we think that is going to take us probably two to three more days before we get things all back to normal," said EPA on-site coordinator Ralph Dollhopf.

Multiple agencies worked together to remove several feet of contaminated snow and dirt from the site. There is concern gas leached into the river as well.

"As you know, the Sturgeon River is frozen, it is covered in several feet of snow. We need to find a way to carefully get it out there and figure out where the gasoline is and, if we find it, whether it is recoverable or not," said Dollhopf.

Finding and removing gas from the river could be hurt into the spring thaw. Crews are monitoring immediate impacts on local air and water quality.

"We are coordinating closely with the DEQ and the local health agency to make sure that there is no potential for impact to drinking water supplies, whether private wells or public drinking water supplies. We don't think there is," said Dollhopf.

The Daily Mining Gazette

Fuel spill contained in Chassell Township

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP — Thanks to quick action, the fuel spill in Chassell Township was contained to the area near the Sturgeon River Bridge.