

2 Oil Spills by Truck Mishaps

ANCHORAGE — Two oil spills, each caused by truck mishaps, occurred this past week on the trans Alaska pipeline project.

One spill occurred at the Valdez terminal site when a 35-ton dump truck overturned. About 80 gallons of diesel fuel and some hydraulic fluid were spilled from the truck onto the gravel road surface. The driver of the vehicle was not injured.

The loss of power steering in the truck was determined to be the cause of the accident. The ground contaminated by the spill was removed, and the spill was reported to appropriate federal and state agencies.

The truck was being operated by a driver for Morrison-Knudsen Company, a subcontractor

for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, the firm responsible for design, construction and operation of the pipeline.

A second spill occurred near the Toolik construction camp, 150 miles south of the Arctic Coast, when a fuel truck overturned on the embankment of the state road.

Between 175 and 225 gallons of fuel spilled from the truck in the accident. An estimated 10 gallons of fuel spilled into the Kuparuk River, which runs near the road.

Oil booms were strung across the river to contain the spill and sorbent material was used to pick up the oil from the water and soil. The spill was reported to appropriate state and federal agencies.