

# Spill workforce now more than 9,400 workers

More than 9,400 people are now working directly for VECO, its subsidiary Norcon or as subcontractors as the Prince William Sound oil spill cleanup continues, according to Veco.

Veco President Pete Leathard says company hiring records indicate that about 93 percent of the cleanup beach workers hired are Alaska residents.

About 6,900 are working at a given time, while others are on R and R breaks between shifts.

As of July 24, of those actively working, 3,183 people were on Veco's payroll, 1,508 were on Norcon's payroll and 2,231 employees were under subcontract. Employee terminations for various reasons since initiation of the cleanup have been about 19 percent.

About 400 boats are now involved supporting work of the task groups, as berthing vessels, equipment barges or support vessels tending boom, ferrying crews, supplies and recovered oily debris. Nearly 2,000 boats are now involved in the entire project stretching from Prince William Sound into the Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet.

Crew members totalling 1,674 are employed on boats under contract to Veco.

The joint venture of Chugach/NANA/Marriott has 268 people performing food service and stewarding functions both onshore and offshore.

Security personnel total 268.

Veco is continuing to accept employment applications at its Anchorage hiring center at 301 East 56th Ave. Applicants will be asked to provide proof of Alaska residency and complete a four-and-a-half hour training class as well as passing a drug test prior to employment.

Supplies and equipment used in the spill cleanup have been purchased from 33 states and five countries.