



# FACT

# [SERVS]

DATE

03/09

SHIP ESCORT/RESPONSE VESSEL SYSTEM [SERVS]

## SERVS — Fact Sheet

### PARENT COMPANY

A division of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

### HISTORY:

SERVS was established on July 20, 1989, and works to prevent oil spills by assisting tankers in safe navigation through the waters of Alaska's Prince William Sound and to protect the environment by providing effective response services to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System marine oil shippers in accordance with oil spill response agreements and plans. Since 1989, SERVS' mission has evolved to include providing oil spill response services to Valdez Marine Terminal and the Pipeline.

### REGULATORY DRIVERS:

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) and the state of Alaska's House Bill 567 set higher standards for companies that ship TAPS crude oil through Prince William Sound. Alaska's Response Planning Standard (RPS) is more stringent than that of OPA 90 and states that plan holders shall maintain or have available under contract within its region of operation, sufficient discharge containment, storage, transfer, and cleanup equipment, personnel, and other resources to contain, or control and clean up within 72 hours: 300,000 barrels of crude oil for tank vessels of 500,000 or more barrels, or 50,000 barrels of crude oil for tank vessels of less than 500,000 barrels. SERVS maintains readiness to respond to the larger RPS.

### FACILITIES:

#### SERVS Base:

SERVS is located on the north shore of Port Valdez and functions as the base of operations for the Duty Office, SERVS personnel and the tug fleet.

#### SERVS Warehouse Annex:

Located across the street from the Valdez Container Terminal, this facility functions as primary warehousing and storage for oil spill response and support equipment not already deployed. This facility is also functions as the Valdez Response Center during an oil spill response.



## Valdez Marine Terminal:

SERVS maintains a 10 person oil spill response team at the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT). The VMT is located at the southern end of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System. The VMT is where crude oil is loaded onto tankers for transport to market. The VMT has facilities for crude oil metering, storage, transfer, and loading. Incoming crude oil is metered and sent either to one of 14 storage tanks or directly to a tanker. Before transfer to a tanker begins, oil spill response crews place an oil spill containment boom around the entire berth and the tanker.

### The VMT:

- Covers a total area of 1,000 acres with all facilities except berths built on bedrock at elevations ranging between 15 feet and 660 feet
- Has 14 storage tanks with a capacity of more than 500,000 barrels per tank = 9.18 million barrels of total storage
- Has one floating-berth and three fixed-berths
- Has two loading berths with vapor recovery systems and conducts all current loading
- Has loaded more than 19,000 tankers since its inception

## OPERATIONS:

### Area of Protection:

The challenge of operating and maintaining the trans-Alaska pipeline does not end when the oil arrives at Valdez. The responsibility extends nearly 70 miles through Prince William Sound where each laden tanker is tethered to a SERVS Enhanced Tractor Tug (ETT) between VMT and Buoy 9. A Prevention/Response Tug (PRT) is the second vessel in the escort. With their combined 20,384 HP, the ETT and PRT vessels enhance SERVS' ability to assist disabled tankers along with the availability of expedient response services.

### Primary Assets:

SERVS has the largest inventory of oil spill response equipment in the world, including:

- 11 escort and response tugs
- Nine oil recovery barges
- 108 skimming units
- 49.7 miles of various boom
- Five hatchery protection sites
- Five response centers
- 350+ vessels participating in fishing/vessel program



Hours of Operation:	Incident response teams are available 24/7
Capability:	<p>Response equipment is pre-positioned throughout Prince William Sound for sensitive area protection with the ability to recover 300,000 barrels of oil in 72 hours and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-water storage capacity of 900,000+ barrels of oil</li><li>• Two state-of-the-art tug escorts for every laden tanker transiting the waters of Prince William Sound</li><li>• Five escort tugs, each with more than 10,000 horsepower</li><li>• To date, more than 11,000 tankers have been escorted</li></ul>
Procedures:	<p>During the escort, one of these tugs is tethered to laden tankers from the Valdez Marine Terminal, through the Valdez Narrows, to Bligh Reef. The tether is actually maintained to Buoy 9, approximately six nautical miles before arrival at Bligh Reef. The tugboats remain within a distance of a quarter-mile of the tanker when performing their escort duties.</p>
CERTIFICATIONS:	<p>Member of the Certified Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO) and a registered Primary Response Action Contractor (RCA) with the state of Alaska</p>
AFFILIATION:	<p>In February 1990, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company signed a contract with the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council to grant access to Alyeska facilities and to review, monitor, and comment on various aspects of the company's operations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oil spill prevention and response plans</li><li>• Environmental protection capabilities</li><li>• Actual and potential environmental impacts of terminal and tanker operations</li></ul>
EMPLOYEES:	<p>Thirty-five Alyeska employees and 300 contractor personnel are trained and available to conduct land and water response operations</p>
MANAGEMENT:	<p>Mike Meadors, SERVS Director</p>
IN THE COMMUNITY:	<p>Alyeska Pipeline Service Company strives to be a good corporate citizen through its philanthropy, volunteer and matching gift programs. Many employees sit on boards and volunteer time to worthy causes such as the Valdez United Way, Valdez Museum, Copper River Basin Child Advocacy Center and Valdez City School District.</p>



ACCOLADES: 1999 The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Legacy Award

HEADQUARTERS: Alyeska Pipeline Service Company  
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