

Reporting Contamination

Hazardous Substances:

Any releases of a hazardous substance must be reported as soon as possible.

Petroleum Release:

Water: Any release must be reported

Land: Any release over 55 gallons. A released of 10-55 gallons must be reported within 48 hours.

Impermeable Secondary Containment

Areas: Any released over 55 gallons within 48 hours.



Central: 907-269-3063
Northern: 907-451-2121
Southeast: 907-465-5340

HOW TO REPORT

During normal business hours: your nearest DEC response team office

Outside normal business hours: call 1-800-478-9300

Source: Alaska DEC SPAR 2019

How YRITWC Can Help

1 Have you used our app?

Our app makes it simple to report a contaminated site in your community. Once downloaded, just click on "report a brownfield." Once the form is completed and submitted, it will get sent to our YRTIWC Brownfield staff.

2 Apply for a site assessment

Once the application is approved by the EPA, YRITWC will work with local staff members to coordinate either a Phase 1 or 2 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). These are crucial when identifying the potential contamination and needed in order to pursue clean up funds.

Contact Us

Brownfield Staff

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907-258-3337



Photo: Emily Anderson 2018

Signs of Contamination in your Community

Different types of contamination and its sources

Asbestos:

commonly found in old buildings. Dangerous when airborne.

Lead:

some older buildings may contain lead paint

Petroleum Product (oil/fuel):

Petroleum spills can come from a large array of sources in rural Alaska. Most commonly we see spills from tank farms and home heating tanks.

PCBs:

Polychlorinated biphenyls are found in old transformers.

Solid Waste:

Although village landfills are rarely characterized as brownfields, illegal dumpsites are prevalent brownfield sites in rural Alaska.



Photo: Emily Anderson 2018

SOIL CONTAMINATION

Contaminated soil is defined as the presence of pollution on the land that can pose a threat to human and environmental health.

A common source of soil contamination in rural Alaska is petroleum products. This can be from home heating oil tanks, at the communities tank farm, from vehicles, etc.



Photo: YRITWC 2014

The photo above soil [saturated with petroleum product](#). The soil will appear darker in color and will sometimes have a distinct odor.



Photo: Will Peterson 2016

If you can observe [stressed or lack of vegetation](#) in an area, there might be a presence of a contaminate in the soil. Be sure to test your soil.

Why Soil Contamination Matters

Soil contamination is an obvious threat to the physical environment but also to public health, especially to our most vulnerable; children and elders. Wherever you walk, you can carry contaminants on your shoes and back into your home. Children are always playing outside. Be careful where they play to ensure they are not putting themselves at risk.

Depending on the amount of contamination and soil type, pollution can migrate to underground water tables and contaminate drinking water.

In certain situations, the petroleum plume can even migrate and vapor can intrude indoor air ventilation systems.

WATER CONTAMINATION



Photo: Eco Car Care

Once petroleum product spills into water, it immediately makes the water unfit to drink. However, consider the environment dependent on that water such as animals and aquatic life.

Be sure to test your drinking water of petroleum product!