

Cleanup crews recovering fuel

The Associated Press

Cleanup crews have recovered an estimated 10,000 gallons of jet fuel which leaked while a tanker was being unloaded at the Port of Anchorage, a fire department spokesman said Tuesday.

Lee Crossman said the danger of an explosion from the spilled fuel is low. Pollution potential also appears marginal as the leakage was trapped in a plastic-lined pit near where it was being pumped into an underground distribution system Monday afternoon, he said.

Authorities aren't sure exactly how much fuel was lost, Crossman said.

Daily News Herald

C-6 Sunday, January 20, 1985, The Anchorage Times

Public Meeting

ANCHORAGE PORT COMMISSION MEETING

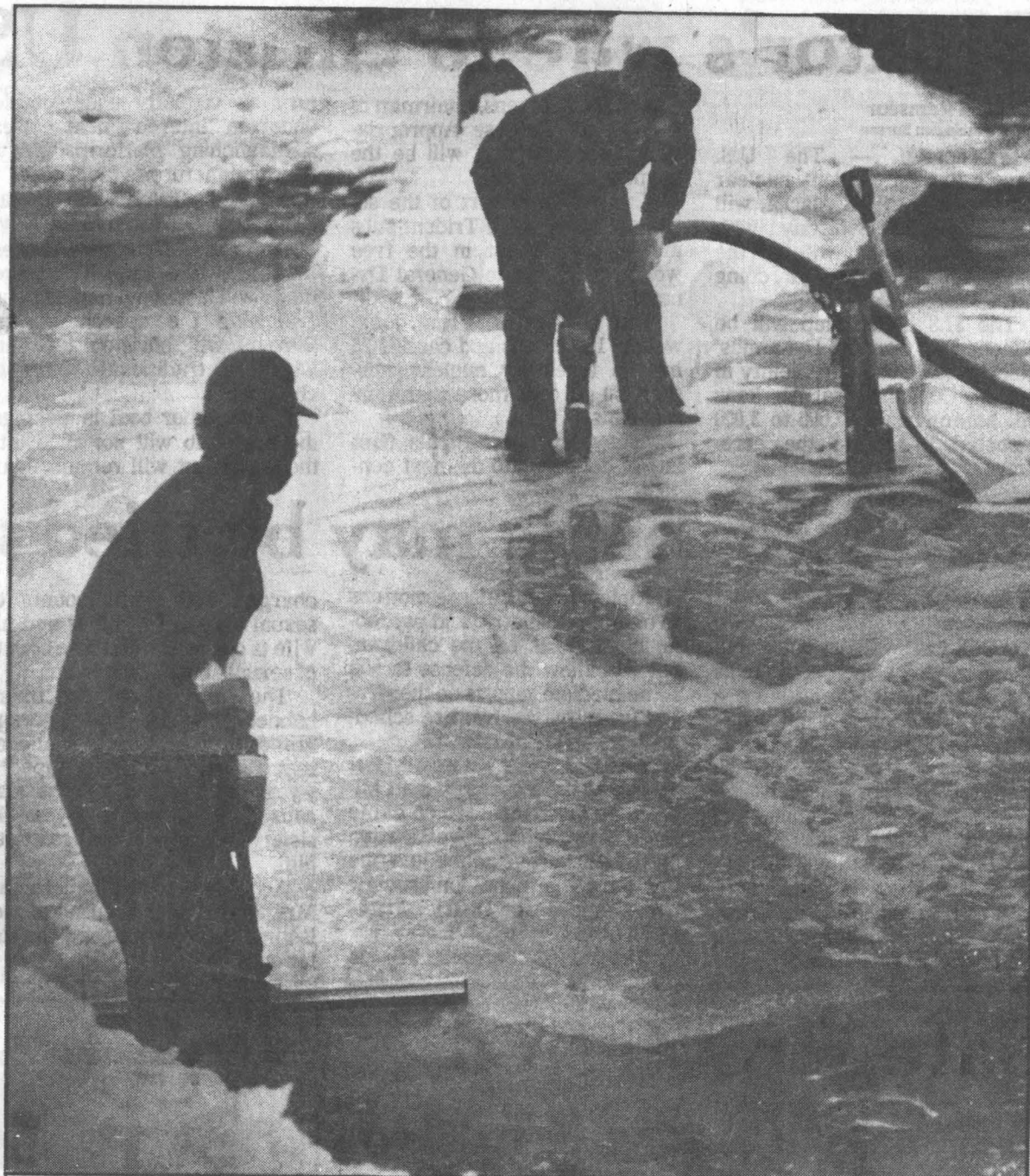
January 21, 1985

Location: Terminal No. 3 Conference Room
Port of Anchorage

Time: 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Minutes
January, 7, 1985
 - III. Old Business
Terminal Use Permit - Northland Services
 - IV. New Business
Terminal Use Permit - Coastal Alaska Marine Lines
Westinghouse Crane Renovation Contract
Discussion on Port Procedures Concerning Terminal Use Permits
 - V. Port Director's Reports
 - VI. Persons/Items Not On Agenda
 - VII. Adjournment
- P.O. #141-85
Pub: 1/20/85



Ted Crouse, front, and Carl Luchsinge clean up a 10,000-gallon aviation fuel spill in Port of Anchorage

Bob Hallinen of The Times

Fuel spills at port a second time; no damage reported

by Earl Swift
Times Writer

At least 10,000 gallons of aviation fuel spilled into a containment pit as it was being pumped from a barge at the Port of Anchorage Monday, in the city harbor's second such mishap in less than a month.

Municipal officials said the 3 p.m. accident caused no damage to port facilities or the environment and posed minimal danger of fire or explosion.

Port of Anchorage Director Tyler Jones said the spill occurred at a "spaghetti farm," a mish-mash of eight-and six-inch pipes leading from the port's docking and off-loading area to nearby storage tanks and constructed within a vinyl-sided containment pit.

As the fuel was pumped from Crowley Maritime Corp. barge 450-7 to a cluster of storage tanks owned by several airlines, one of the farm's valves began leaking, Jones said. Originally estimated at only 200 to 300 gallons, the liquid escaped and spilled into a large containment pit surrounding the facility before a safety valve could be closed, he said.

"One of the petroleum users at the port was changing

some valves, and product — in the course of removing or replacing a valve — spewed out," the port director said. "All the product was contained within the pipeline basin, so it will be removed without damage to the facility or environment."

"We built the containment basin around it last year," Jones said. "We weren't looking forward to its first live test, but now it's had it. And it's performed just A-1."

The mishap delayed the continued off-loading of fuel from the barge for a short period, Jones said, but caused no other interruptions of port activity.

Crews from the Anchorage Fire Department's Downtown and Government Hill firehouses were standing by as employees of Alaska Pollution Control Inc. pumped the fuel from the pit this morning. About 10,000 gallons had been recovered by 6 a.m., department spokesman Lee Crossman said.

Both Jones and Crossman said they did not know how many gallons of the volatile substance had spilled altogether. "It's hard to tell," Crossman said. "The pit area

See Safety, page B-2

Anch. Times 1-8-85 Tues.

Sea-Land may raise rates 10 percent

Associated Press

Sea-Land Services Inc. said Wednesday it intends to raise its Alaska shipping rates by 10 percent in March.

One industry analyst said the announcement was a trial balloon. Fred Tolan, a Seattle-based shipping consultant who keeps a close eye on the Alaska market, said he doubts the increase will be implemented.

"It's a calculated risk," Tolan said of Sea-Land's announcement. "They're telegraphing their desire to raise rates with a prayer that their main competitors will follow along."

Tolan said most ships leaving the Lower 48 for Alaska are only 80 percent full. "And there's absolutely no one that's predicting any burst of freight to fill up the ships," he said.

He said carriers would rather have full ships than a 10 percent rate increase.

Doug Tipton, Sea-Land's general manager, acknowledged that the rate increase would not take

effect unless other major shippers followed suit.

He said increased competition forced Sea-Land to reduce its rates 14 percent last year.

"We have an obligation to our stockholders to make money," Tipton said. "The deterioration in rates has not allowed us to make an acceptable return."

Tipton said the entry of the SeaWay barge line has had a big influence on the Alaska market.

"We know it's true," SeaWay spokesman Martin Durkan said Wednesday from his Seattle office. "My son was up in Anchorage recently, and he said he bought a loaf of bread cheaper there than he could in the south end of King County (Wash.). So I guess there has been some benefit to the residents of Alaska."

Durkan said SeaWay is reviewing its rates continuously, and has lowered some while increasing others in recent months. He said they generally are 5-10 percent lower than the major competitors'.

"We would be the first to admit that the rate

war has really reduced the gross income much more than we thought it would," Durkan said. But he said he didn't know if SeaWay would follow Sea-Land's lead on the rate increase.

Officials of Totem Ocean Trailer Express (TOTE) could not be reached for comment. Frank Schembs, general manager for Crowley Maritime's Alaska Hydro-Train, refused to comment on the announced rate increase.

Tipton said a 10 percent rate increase doesn't mean the cost of goods to Alaska consumers will rise by 10 percent.

"On the retail level, to a housewife who is going to the grocery store every day, it's not a big increase," Tipton said. He estimated the rate increase would increase the price of milk 2 cents a quart.

Increased operating costs and pending labor contracts are factors in the increase, he said. He estimated that Sea-Land has 35 percent of the Alaska market.

Times Thursday 1-24-85