



To: Chris Burns- Preparedness Manager

From: Marleena Merchant

CC:

Date: 12/09/2016

Re: OSRI Internship

From June 2016 to November 2016, I worked at Alaska Chadux as an intern in the preparedness and operations sections. During my internship I had the opportunity to learn quite a bit about oil spill response activities. There were no actual incidents during my time at Alaska Chadux. Therefore, I worked on preparedness training activities, maintaining and operating response equipment, developed safety tools, and help analyze barge traffic data. I also attended multiple oil spill response exercises and training sessions.

Before beginning work as an intern it was essential to complete background training. During the internship I received the following certifications: forklift operation, Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT), FEMA ICS-100, 200, 907, and a 24hr HAZWOPER. Training provided me with the knowledge needed to work safely and effectively. Before I could drive a forklift or in the warehouse or participate in response activities, I needed to understand the equipment and potential hazards.

Once training was completed I began participating in Chadux's training sessions and oil spill response exercises. During six (6) months at Alaska Chadux I visited their hubs in Whittier, Valdez, Nome, and Seward. During each exercise I learned more about environment protection, efficient spill response tactics, and safety hazards at the work site.

My favorite exercise was in Valdez. For this exercise I worked with the preparedness team to prepare the exercise documentation, including an Operations Order, a Site Safety Assessment, and a Medical Form. After completing the paperwork I briefed the response team on our upcoming activities. Once we were in Valdez I taught an introductory air monitoring class to representatives of a Chadux member company and ADEC personnel while Chadux team members discussed and taught the beach deluge system and hazing wildlife. Then we set the beach deluge system up and ran it,

simulating the washing of “oil” from the beach down to the water to be collected by a skimmer.

Another exercise I was apart of was in Seward, Alaska. The purpose of this exercise was to practice deploying containment boom in the water from a small boat. I also practiced deploying containment boom around another boat, simulated the collection of oil (using buoys in the water) with the boom, and generally became familiar with operating a work skiff.

I would like to thank the Oil Spill Recovery Institute for supporting my internship with the Alaska Chadux Corporation. The experience provided me with an extraordinary opportunity to be part of oil spill response organization as well as continue my degree. I am thankful for my time spent here.