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Alyeska conducts annual response training for fishing vessels

The Alyeska Pipeline Ship Escort and Response Vessel System (SERVS) is launching its 2012 spill response training for fishing vessels around Prince William Sound and other downstream communities.

Alyeska and support staff will be conducting training in the following communities:

Kodiak	April 1-5
Homer	April 9-13
Seward	April 17-19
Whittier	April 23-26
Cordova	April 29- May 7
Valdez	May 10-14

SERVS contracts with more than 400 vessels in Valdez, Cordova, Whittier, Homer, Seward and Kodiak to provide oil spill response support. The Vessel of Opportunity Program started in 1990 to employ local residents in oil spill response, especially those from the fishing industry. Today, the boats and crews play an integral role in Alyeska's response readiness.

"Like Alyeska's employees, many vessel owners and crews live and work in Southcentral Alaska," said Andrés Morales, SERVS Director. "We have a shared interest in protecting these waters, and the institutional knowledge and ownership they bring to the table is critical."

Vessel captains and crew participate annually in rigorous training that lasts several days. Participants spend time in classrooms, learning oil spill and emergency response basics. Then they head on water for hands-on experience. They work with SERVS personnel on response vessels to load up their own boats with equipment, and then practice deploying boom, setting up skimmers and rehearsing other recovery tactics. These vessels participate in drills and exercises to ensure we are prepared to respond in case of an actual incident.

Members of the media interested in observing the training can contact Kate Herring, Valdez Communications Manager, at (907) 834-7303 for more information. For more information on Alyeska, visit the company's website at www.alyeska-pipe.com.

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