**Oil and Hazardous Substance First Responder Equipment and Preparedness** | **FY2024 Request: $750,000** | **Reference No: 46946**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation
**Category:** Health/Human Services
**Location:** Statewide
**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028

**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety
**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
**Contact:** Tiffany Larson
**Contact Phone:** (907)465-4040

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**
This project will replace aged and outdated essential oil and hazardous substance first responder equipment and preparedness needs for prevention and emergency responses within Alaska.

| **Funding:** | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | FY2028 | FY2029 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1052 Oil/Haz Fd | $750,000 | | | | | | $750,000 |
| Total: | $750,000 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $750,000 |

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☑ Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

| | Amount | Staff |
|---|---|---|
| Project Development: | 0 | 0 |
| Ongoing Operating: | 0 | 0 |
| One-Time Startup: | 0 | |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**
Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P113 L14 SB160 $750,000
Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P6 L20 HB75 $750,000

**Project Description/Justification:**
This project provides funding to purchase spill response equipment, replace outdated vessel towing packages, and to help maintain the readiness and response capabilities for the Statewide Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Teams.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintains 57 connexes full of vital response assets in communities statewide, including boom, sorbents, anchors, hand tools, and other equipment. The response equipment is often used and maintained by community first responders and is essential in preventing the spread of contamination when an oil spill occurs. The Department maintains community spill response agreements with 46 of the 57 communities that have access to the connexes. Failure to continue to maintain these response assets will create a paradigm where both small and large spills are unreported or unmitigated until assets are onsite. This project will replenish response assets and conduct equipment maintenance at the connex sites.

In addition to connexes, DEC maintains 10 emergency towing packages of different sizes that have been located in key locations throughout Alaska for more than a decade. The towing packages are used when large vessels are adrift and must be towed to safety. Towing technology has improved dramatically since the department first deployed the towing packages. New towing packages are

reusable, easier to deploy, and more likely to hold. The existing towing packages are not reusable, which causes a significant delay for redeployment since in-kind replacements are needed to prepare the towing package for further use. A reusable system will allow the state to re-deploy packages more quickly, helping keep communities and the environment safer. This project will replace the existing towing packages with more effective and reusable systems.

Three HAZMAT Response Teams are located in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks. The teams are deployed statewide where the initial response is outside of department expertise and immediate response is required due to the hazardous nature of the spilled material. This project will allow for HAZMAT response team equipment updates and maintenance, in addition to training to promote safe and professional first responses to hazardous substance releases at the request of the state.