

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Marine Safety Unit Valdez, AK

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5000
31 JAN 2014

Dave Barry, President
Gallagher Marine Systems
200 Century Parkway, Suite D
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Dear Mr. Barry

I sincerely appreciate the collaborative approach and commitment displayed by Gallagher Marine Systems, LLC, during response efforts directed at the potential hazardous material release aboard the M/V [REDACTED] in Valdez, Alaska from June 5th through June 18th. The expertise and professionalism demonstrated by your staff was integral to the successful response.

Initially presented with a seemingly benign situation, the incident rapidly grew in scope and complexity stretching local resources and expertise. Faced with language barriers and incomplete cargo manifests, the professionalism and leadership of the Gallagher Marine Systems staff helped bring order to an ambiguous situation and were instrumental in facilitating a response that was both expeditious and safe. Demonstrating superior incident management leadership, your team swiftly adopted a systematic approach to manage the response. Moreover, their talent and commitment to incorporate local, state and federal perspectives was essential to coalescing and organizing a response that was able to mitigate any potential threats to the environment but was also realistic given the logistical challenges associated operations in remote sections of Alaska. Displaying exceptional professionalism, Mr. Graff, Mr. Schrader, Mr. Maddox, and Ms. Pomaranski played critical roles in all aspects of the response including incident action plan development, finance and resource management, work site safety and management of day to day operations. Working long hours throughout the response their contributions directly enabled the Unified Command to remove the threat to the Prince William Sound region as quickly as possible without environmental impact or personnel injuries.

The synergy cultivated by the staff of Gallagher Marine Systems with the entire incident management team was instrumental to the overall successful response to this incident. Simply put, it is this type of collaborative and cooperative approach by industry personnel that brings key players together and enables unity of effort. Thank you and please convey my appreciation to your crew.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B.J. Hawkins".

B. J. HAWKINS
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard