



Tethered Balloon Surveillance Demonstration



Valdez, Alaska
Monday, April 25, 2011
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, and BP Alaska invite you to observe the demonstration of a new technology for providing aerial observations during an oil spill. The technology uses a balloon carrying detectors tethered to a vessel. The balloon is a helium filled SkyDoc aereostat that is rated to 80 knots of wind. The camera is a Latitude Engineering Statcam with dual visible (20x zoom) and thermal infrared (2x zoom). We are looking for input on the value of this approach for aerial observation during spill response.

You are invited to observe the balloon and camera system in operation, during an open house demonstration on April 25th. The location will be the Valdez small boat harbor on the tour dock. Additionally, there will be limited opportunities to observe the system fully deployed at sea in the afternoon. RSVP appreciated. Please contact any of the following people for more information:

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Photo courtesy of Alaska Clean Seas.
Balloon system being deployed in Prudhoe Bay.