Oil Spill Co-operative Winter Exercise Report

Oil Spill Co-operative:	Co-op 5 – Iosegun Lake Boat Launch
Oil Spill Co-op Chair & Alternate:	Co-op 5 Chair – Mike Doerksen, Co-op 5 Alt. Chair – Megan Bridger
Exercise Dates:	Feb. 25, 26, 27, 2026 – Iosegun Lake

Outcome Goal

The goal of winter co-op exercises is to enable attendees to assist the Operations Section Chief or designate with the deployment of specialized and conventional response equipment, to contain and recover spilled material in a water body or watercourse with an ice sheet.

WCSS Co-op Winter Exercise Learning Objectives

1. After reviewing the online WCSS Orientation and Oil Spill Containment & Recovery in a Water Body with an Ice Sheet course, trainees will be able to:

   - Describe the general behavior of oil under an ice sheet in.
   - Describe typical containment and recovery tactics in standing water or a watercourse.
   - Describe WCSS' winter spill response units and process to obtain equipment from WCSS.
   - Conduct a hazard assessment for a spill response site.
   - Contribute to the development of an Ice Safety Plan.
   - Describe how to locate ice slotting area(s).
   - Determine ice slotting tactics based on the weight-bearing capacity of the ice sheet.
   - Identify the WCSS Oil Spill Contingency Manual.
   - Function within a basic ICS structure.

2. After participating in the 3 hands-on activities in the Co-op Winter Exercise, attendees will be able to:

   - Identify typical equipment required to respond to a spill on a water body or watercourse with an ice sheet.
   - Conduct an initial ice assessment to determine the weight-bearing capacity of an ice sheet.
   - Participate on a team responding to an oil spill under an ice sheet.
   - Identify tactics to locate and recover accumulations of oil under ice upstream of the containment and recovery site.
   - Provide exercise evaluation feedback.

WCSS
Western Canadian Spill Services

Exercise Report – Chronological Description

Time	Co-op 5 Iosegun Lake Feb 25, 2026	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
08:30 – 09:00	Sign-in	
09:00 – 09:30	Introductions	Wind: 10km / hr
09:30 - 10:00	Demonstration: ice assessment to determine whether ice is safe to work on	14cm blue ice, 35cm white ice, 61cm total depth. Total recommended low risk weight bearing capacity: 3969 kg
10:00 – 10:40	First group rotation: ice rescue, ice assessment, cutting blocks & slots using standup and sled saw	Wind gusts up to 60km/hr
10:40 – 10:50	Warm-up break	
10:50 – 12:00	Second group rotation	
12:00 – 12:45	Third group rotation	
12:45 – 13:00	Demonstration: use the capstan winch to remove a large ice block cut by exercise attendees	

Time	Co-op 5 Iosegun Lake Feb 26, 2026	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
08:30 – 09:00	Sign-in	
09:00 – 09:30	Introductions (Mike Doerksen, Arlen Hogg from co-op 5 steering committee	
09:30 - 10:00	Demonstration: ice assessment to determine whether ice is safe to work on	14cm blue ice, 35cm white ice, 61cm total depth. Total recommended low risk weight bearing capacity: 3969 kg
10:00 – 10:40	First group rotation: ice rescue, ice assessment, cutting blocks & slots using standup and sled saw	
10:40 – 10:50	Warm-up break	
10:50 – 11:45	Second group rotation	Snow squall, wind gusts up to 80km/hr
11:45 – 12:45	Third group rotation	Weather was too extreme; capstan winch demonstration was not completed

Time	Co-op 5 Iosegun Lake Feb 27, 2026	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
08:30 – 09:00	Sign-in	-24° celsius
09:00 – 09:30	Introductions	
09:30 - 09:40	Warm-up	
09:40 – 10:30	Ice rescue, ice assessment demonstration	21cm blue ice, 34cm white ice, 61cm total depth
10:30 – 10:50	Warm-up	
10:50 – 11:30	Group work: ice assessments	
11:30 – 12:00	Demo: slot cutting & block removal using capstan winch	

Initial Ice Assessment Demonstration

Instructors review and demonstrate safe identification of where and how to conduct an ice assessment that leads to determining the low-risk weight-bearing capacity of an ice sheet.

The demonstration indicates to all trainees that their collective weight included with the truck and trailer are within the low-risk weight-bearing capacity and work can continue.

Ice Rescue Station

All trainees review the 4 components of cold-water immersion & hypothermia, focusing on the 1-10-1 principle for self-rescue. This is followed by reviewing ice rescue techniques and the tools that are available in the WCSS winter units.

Ice Assessment Group Work

Teams of 3 use 3 different types of augers and ice saws to do their own ice assessment. Once 3 holes have been cut and a section of ice can be removed, they will measure the depth of the water body, white ice, blue ice and freeboard.

Using the WCSS-recommended low-risk category, trainees gain perspective of how many workers and heavy equipment may be acceptable on an ice sheet during a response.

WCSS volunteers step up

Executive Sub Committee Co-op 5 Rep Arlen Hogg and Co-op 5 Chair Mike Doerksen work together to support industry training.

Slot Design and Cutting

Depending on the water body beneath the surface of the ice, slot design will change.

WCSS has 2 different types of chainsaws: upright caged and a sled saw, that can be used to cut out a containment slot to begin recovery operations. Because of the safety controls that have been applied in their design, certification is not required to operate these saws.

Trainees are encouraged to gain hands-on experience starting up the chainsaws, working in pairs to cut out ice blocks in the correct direction for simple removal.

We Train in All Weather

Despite an incoming snow squall with wind gusts up to 80 km/hr, WCSS and member company representatives remained steadfast in their commitment to get the job done.

Attendance:

Stats from Co-op Exercise Sessions	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27
No. of Participants	40	38	16
No. of Companies in Co-op	112		
No. of Co-op Member Companies Represented	60		
% of Co-op 5 Membership Representation	54%		

Member Companies in Attendance:		
Advantage Energy	Green Impact Partners	R360 Environmental Solutions
AltaGas	HITIC Energy	Red Angus
AQT Water Management	HWN	Response Energy Group
Archer Exploration	Inisgnia	Rok Resources
Astara Energy	Journey Energy	Saturn Oil & Gas
Barrel Oil Corp	Kelt Exploration	Secure Waste Infrastructure
Baytex Energy	Keyera	Silverleaf
BDJ	Kiwetinohk Energy	Sinopec Canada Energy
Bench Creek Resources	Mancal	Spoke Resources
Bighorn Energy	Murphy Oil Group	Storm Development
Birchcliff Energy	Northern Smilodon	Surge Energy
Blue Sky Resources	Novus Energy	Tamarack Valley Energy
Bonterra	Nuova Strata	Taqa North
CNRL	Orlen Upstream	Texcal
Canlin Energy	Ovintiv	Tidewater Midstream & Infrastructure Ltd
Coastal Resources	Paramount Resources	Tourmaline Oil
Corex	Pembina Pipeline	Vermilion Energy
Cygnet Energy	Peyto	Whitecap Resources
DEL Canada GP Ltd	Pine Cliff Energy	
DOAG Energy	Prairie Provident Resources	
GranTierra Energy	Green Impact Partners	

Member Companies Not In Attendance:		
Altair Energy	Harvest Operations	Rush Resources
Arc Resources	Kinghorn Operations	Sand Hills Div Corp
Athabasca Oil Corp	Logan Energy Corp	Sandin Resources
B-32 Exploration	Long Term Asset Management	Serinus Energy
Brotherin Energy	Mojek Resources	Shell Canada
Cardinal Energy	New Resources	Signalta Canada
Cenovus Energy	New Times Energy	Sprocket Energy
Centennial Petroleum	New West Data Acquisition Corp	Sutton Energy
Clampett Energy	Northrock Resources	Teine Energy
Concourse Petroleum	Oak Resources	TransMountain
Deltawest Energy	Outlier Resources	Tykewest
Enercapita Energy	Outpost Energy	Vanrena Resources
Erdol Resources	Petro-Lin Energy	Vital Energy
Executive Adventures 2008	PetroChina Canada	West 5 Resources
Forden Energy	Pivotal Energy	Whitehall Energy
Gibson Energy	Plains Canada Liquid Pipelines	Woodsman Energy
Goose Creek Resources	Prairie Thunder Resources	
Grizzly Resources	Prospera Energy	
Gryphon Petroleum	Response Energy	
Halo Exploration	Rimfire Energy	

Non-Member Companies or Member Companies Representing a Different Co-op in Attendance:
Envolve Energy Services
Rubellite Energy
Surge Energy