Oil Spill Co-operative
OSCAR in a Large River Exercise Report

Oil Spill Co-operative:	Co-op 1
Oil Spill Co-op Chair & Alternate(s):	Co-op 1 Chair – Scott Nelson, Co-op 1 Alt. Chairs – Kevin Miciak & Brandi Lasure
Exercise Dates:	June 17 & 18, 2026 Lea Park Bridge

All smiles from the Co-op 1 crew! Co-op 1 Chair Scott Nelson, Co-op 1 Alt. Chair Brandi Lasure, Co-op 1 Executive Sub-Committee representative and past Chair Derren Weimer, and Steering Committee member Leo Paquin came to represent their respective companies while also providing support to the WCSS team throughout the exercise.

Outcome Goal

The goal of Co-op exercises in large rivers is to enable attendees to support their Operations Section Chief or designate with the deployment of equipment to contain and recover the spilled material where boats and specialized equipment are required and/or to protect sensitive areas.

WCSS Co-op OSCAR in a Large River Exercise Learning Objectives

1. After reviewing the online WCSS Orientation and OSCAR in a Large River eLearning course, trainees will be able to:

   - Describe WCSS' role in a spill response.
   - Conduct a hazard assessment for a spill response site.
   - List spill reporting requirements.
   - Describe how spilled hydrocarbon material behaves in a large river.
   - Describe the types, locations and process to obtain WCSS spill response equipment.

2. After participating in hands-on activities in the Lake exercise, trainees will be able to:

   - Function within a basic ICS structure.
   - Identify the WCSS Oil Spill Contingency manual.
   - Support the evaluation of a control point.
     - Prepare the staging area and equipment for containment and recovery activities prior to a Subject Matter Expert and certified boat operators' arrival on site.
   - Participate in a basic equipment deployment in a lake environment.
   - Prepare a site for wildlife management by a wildlife biologist as required.
   - Identify and set up a decontamination corridor at a spill site.
     - Provide exercise evaluation feedback

WCSS
Western Canadian Spill Services

Exercise Report – Chronological Description

Date / Time: June 17th / AM	Description	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
7:30am – 8:00am	Sign-in	
8:00am – 8:05am	WCSS Introductions by Scott Nelson	
8:05am – 8:10am	AEPA Overview – Michael Merrills	
8:10am – 8:30am	WCSS overview with Lee Tarr	
8:30am – 9:25am	Dryland equipment deployment	
9:25am – 9:45am	Break	
9:45am – 10:15am	ICS overview; deployment + briefing, boat crew briefings	
10:15am – 11:12am	Equipment deployment: deploy 350' boom with 3 boom deflectors, 2 jet boats, objective to contain + recover by 11:30	

Date / Time: June 17th / PM	Description	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
12:30pm – 1:05pm	Sign-in	
1:05pm – 1:15pm	WCSS introductions, AEPA + Sask. Ministry of Environment	
1:15pm – 1:36pm	WCSS Overview with Lee Tarr	Fighter jets overhead; very loud
1:36pm – 1:45pm	Working with wildfire + helicopters in a spill; brief discussion as requested by the SC to explain how helicopters can be utilized in a spill and an overview of a landing site.	
1:45pm – 2:35pm	Dryland equipment deployment	
2:35pm – 2:55pm	Break	
2:55pm – 4:30pm	Equipment Deployment: objective to contain + recover product by 4:30	

Date / Time: June 18th / AM	Description	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
7:30am – 8:00am	Sign-in	
8:00am – 8:22am	WCSS introductions / overview / hazard assessment	

8:22am – 9:25am	Dryland equipment deployment	
9:25am – 9:45am	Break	
9:45am – 11:30am	Equipment deployment – objective containment + recovery by 11:30. Containment completed by 10:55, recovery by 12:00	

Date / Time: June 18th / PM	Description	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
12:30pm – 12:57pm	Sign-in	
12:57pm – 1:22pm	WCSS introductions/ overview with Lee Tarr; AEPA Mark Dmytriw / hazard assessment	
1:22pm – 2:30pm	Dryland equipment deployment	
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Break	
2:45pm – 4:15 pm	Equipment deployment into the river – objective to contain + recover product by 4:30	

Introductions and Regulatory Remarks

Scott Nelson kicked each session off with introductions and a brief overview of the Co-op 1 equipment location caches. Michael Merrills and Mark Dmytriw joined us from ASIRT (Alberta Serious Incident Response Team) and Les Neurauter from Sask. Ministry of Environment. Both had similar messaging focusing on the importance of reporting potential volume and early notification of a release. Co-op 1 is specifically unique in that it crosses a provincial border, meaning both Alberta and Saskatchewan regulators could be involved in a release and may have different regulatory requirements. In this situation it is important to work together early to understand the requirements from both jurisdictions and establish clear next steps for an efficient response and recovery.

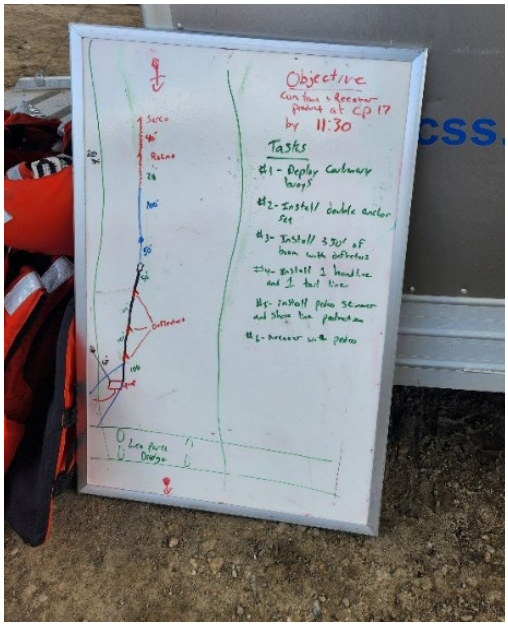
Dryland Equipment Deployment

Co-op 1 held four training exercises over two days. Instructors Lee Tarr, Todd Whitby, and Jake Baranek led attendees through a dryland equipment deployment demonstration and discussed the different types of equipment that WCSS has in its ISRUs (Initial Spill Response Units) and Regional OSCAR (Oil Spill Containment & Recovery) units which member companies can access. The demonstration focused on the equipment and containment and recovery equipment that can be used in large river responses:

- Instream anchors (rake, sarca, danforth)
- Chain
- Rope using 10:1 ratio for depth of water
- Tow Paravane
- River Boom
- Handlines
- Shoreline pin anchors (pin, screw, wing pin)
- Pedco Skimmer
- Hydraulic pump

Boom angle is an important aspect for proper containment and recovery in a large river, if the current is faster than 4km/h your boom angle should be 10° or less, and if the current is less than 4km/h your angle should be 30° or less.

Planning is Key to a Successful Response



Before the equipment deployment into the river, instructors walked everyone through the Equipment Deployment Briefing. The objective of the day was to contain and recover product at Control Point 17 by a specific time for each session. To keep the deployment efficient and manageable, the plan was broken down into six tasks:

1. Deploy cautionary buoys
2. Install double anchor set
3. Install 350’ of boom with deflectors
4. Install one handline and one tail line
5. Install pedco skimmer and shoreline protection
6. Recover with pedco

The instructors discussed the importance of implementing the ICS (Incident Command System) during the initial phase of the response. Keeping responsibilities within manageable group sizes of no more than 7 people helps support an organized and effective response.

Upon sign-in, attendees were assigned to one of three groups: two boat crews or the shoreline crew. Following the briefing, everyone moved into their respective groups where the instructors provided their specific tasks. The boat crews also received a Boat and Passenger briefing before beginning their work on the jetboats.

Shoreline Crew

The shoreline crew do the heavy lifting to ensure that the equipment (boom, deflectors, rope, tow bridles) gets down to the riverbank and ready to be deployed for the boat crews.

A Good Deed Didn't Go Unnoticed

During the Large River exercises, there sometimes will be a bit of downtime for the shoreline crew. This group of guys decided to take that time as an opportunity to do some good and clean up the garbage that was onsite when we arrived. Which initiated some others to join in! WCSS strives to leave a site cleaner than how we found it, and this went above and beyond. Keep up the great work!

Equipment Deployment using Boom Deflectors

The Summer of 2026 was a wet one with above-average rainfall throughout Alberta which impacted access to the shoreline at this site. While we had already intended to demonstrate the boom deflectors, the site conditions created a great real-time training opportunity to show the benefits of using the deflectors as a part of this deployment strategy. Boom deflectors are specialized equipment in WCSS' inventory. They attach to boom connectors and are designed to help push the boom to an angle where product can be deflected toward a recovery area. This can also eliminate the need for handlines in situations where access is limited. In Co-op 1, the steering committee places significant emphasis on the need for industry to be aware of these exceptional tools.

Once the boom was set, the shoreline crew placed creek boom for shoreline protection, then connected the boom to the pedco skimmer and pump for product recovery.

Attendance:

Stats from Co-op Exercise Sessions	June 17 / AM	June 17 / PM	June 18 / AM	June 18 / pm	Total
No. of Participants	48	23	24	16	**111**
No. of Companies in Co-op	130				
No. of Co-op Member Companies Represented	29	12	16	17	**59**
% of Co-op Membership Representation	22%	9%	12%	13%	**45 %**

Member Companies in Attendance:		
Aeraden Energy Corp.	Highwood Asset Management Ltd.	Prairie Provident Resources Canada Ltd.
Alice Petroleum Ltd.	Hillside Energy Ltd	Pronghorn Resources Ltd.
Alsace Energy Corp.	Husky Midstream General Partner Inc.	Pure Environmental Waste Management Ltd.
Avalon Oil & Gas Ltd.	Imperial Oil Resources Limited	R360 Environmental Solutions Canada Inc.
Barcomp Petroleum Ltd.	Inter Pipeline (Corridor) Inc.	Red Jack Petroleum Ltd.

Baytex Energy Ltd.	Inter Pipeline Ltd.	Rubellite Energy Inc.
Caltex Trilogy Inc.	Inter Pipeline Offgas Ltd.	Ruralco Resources Corp.
Can-Expo Energy Inc.	Inter Pipeline Polaris Inc.	Secure Waste Infrastructure Corp.
Canadian Natural Resources Limited	Intrepid Petroleum Ltd.	Spur Petroleum Ltd.
Cardinal Energy Ltd.	Ipc Canada Ltd.	Strathcona Resources Ltd.
Cenovus Energy Inc.	Jrj Energy Ltd.	Suncor Energy Logistics Corporation
Clear North Energy Corp.	Lineup Resources Corp.	Surge Energy Inc.
Cold Lake Pipeline Ltd.	Longshore Resources Ltd.	Teine Energy Ltd.
Courser Energy Ltd.	Lotus Creek Exploration Inc.	Unit 18 Corp.
Croverro Energy Ltd.	Lycos Energy Inc.	Wasp Enterprizes Ltd.
Durham Creek Energy Ltd.	Mahikan Oil Corporation	West Lake Energy Corp.
Enbridge Pipelines (Athabasca) Inc.	Marlin Resources Ltd.	Westgate Energy Operations Ltd.
Enbridge Pipelines Inc.	New West Data Corp.	Wolf Ngl Inc.
Ener T Corporation	Pentacor Energy Corp.	Wolf Pipeline Inc.
Eyehill Creek Exploration Ltd.	Plains Midstream Canada Ulc	

Member Companies Not in Attendance:		
Acadian Oil & Gas Corp.	Kraken Oil Inc.	Saturn Oil & Gas Inc.
Anjarl Energy (Canada) Ltd.	Long Run Exploration Ltd.	South Bow Gp (Canada) Ltd.
Argyle Oil And Gas Limited	Lynx Energy Ulc	Stander Resources Ltd.
Axiom Oil And Gas Inc.	Mooncor Energy Inc.	Sun Century Petroleum Corporation
Ayik Energy Corp.	Next Oil & Gas Inc.	Taku Gas Limited
Battle River Energy Ltd	North Fork Resources Ltd.	Talio Energy Ltd.
Benkoil Resources Ltd.	Novacor Exploration Ltd.	Tama Petroleum Ltd.
Boondocks Oil Company Ltd.	Nulife Energy Operations Corp.	Tamarack Valley Energy Ltd.
Borradaile Oil Ltd.	O'neill Industries International-Canada Inc.	Taqa North Ltd.
Bpl Holdings Inc.	Ontic Energy Inc.	Tidewater Midstream And Infrastructure Ltd.
Brightspot International Energy (Canada) Co., Ltd.	Opus Resources Ltd.	Top Met Resources Ltd.

Canlin Energy Corporation	Orga Energy Ltd.	Top Oil Production Ltd.
Capitan Investment Ltd.	Original Oil Inc.	Topanga Resources Ltd.
Check Energy Ltd.	Pembina Pipeline Corporation	Tourmaline Oil Corp.
Cleo Energy Corp.	Perisson Petroleum Corporation	Transaction Oil & Gas Ventures Inc.
Dark Eye Energy Inc.	Pine Cliff Energy Ltd.	Trio Petroleum Canada, Corp.
Evergo Resources Limited	Pismo Energy Ltd.	Tuscany Petroleum Ltd.
Fallon Energy Inc.	Pointbreak Resources Inc.	Valor Energy Ltd.
Guttercast Resources Ltd.	Prairie Thunder Resources Ltd.	Venture Field Services Ltd.
Harvest Operations Corp.	Prosper Petroleum Ltd.	Vital Energy Inc.
Hemisphere Energy Corporation	Response Energy Corporation	Volk Energy Corporation
Integrity Oil Operations Ltd.	Revolution Oil & Gas Corporation	Windtalker Energy Corp.
Ish Energy Ltd.	Ridgeline Exploration Inc	Xenotime Energy Inc.
Kihew Resources Inc.	Roswell Petroleum Corporation	

Non-Member Companies or Member Companies Representing a Different Co-op in Attendance:		
AEPA + ASIRT	Imperial Oil Resources Limited – Co-op 9	Vantage Point Resources Inc. – Co-op 2
Enbridge Pipelines Inc. – Co-op 4	Jaycona	Weiser Oil Operation – Co-op 4
Etthen Energy	Northern Utilities	Wolf Ngl Inc. – Co-op 7
Ministry Of Energy & Resources, Government Of Sask.	R360 Environmental Solutions Canada Inc. – Co-op 6	Wolf Pipeline Inc.
Headwater Exploration Inc. – Co-op 4	Spinner Petroleum	