Oil Spill Co-operative
OSCAR in a Lake Exercise Report

Oil Spill Co-operative:	Co-op 9
Oil Spill Co-op Chair & Alternate(s):	Co-op 9 Chair – Jim Chramosta, Co-op 9 Alt. Chairs Don Brown, Kaylin Southwick & Kait Hogg
Exercise Dates:	June 23, 2026 – Loon Lake, Fort Nelson & June 25, 2026 – Swan Lake

The Swan Lake exercise had amazing representation from the Co-op 9 steering committee volunteers. Pictured is Colby, while not a steering committee member, he attended and ensured that he kept his skills up to snuff by participating as a WCSS certified boat operator to support the exercise to support the exercise. Next to him is Co-op 9 Alt. Chair Kaylin Southwick, Co-op 9 Alt. Chair Kait Hogg, SC member Colby Coates, Co-op 9 Chair Jim Chramosta and Co-op 9 Alt Chair and ESC Member. Their local and industry knowledge and experience is imperative for the success and evolution within the Co-op.

Outcome Goal

The goal of Coop exercises in lakes 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 Lake Exercise Learning Objectives

1. After reviewing the online WCSS Orientation and OSCAR in Lakes and Standing Water 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 the impact that waves and wind can have on a spill response.
   - 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.
   - 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 23rd / AM	Description	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
7:30am – 8:00am	Sign-in	
8:00am – 8:38am	WCSS Introductions & overview with Don Brown	
8:38am – 9:45am	Dryland equipment, deployment – anchors, Danforth, plough style rake, lake boom, river boom + small boom (baby) Lake deployment tactics, herding creek corralling, deflection boom + shoreline containment	
9:45am – 9:55am	Break	
9:55am – 11:15am	Equipment deployment – corralling, herding, diversion + shoreline containment	

Date / Time: June 25th / AM	Description	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
7:30am – 8:00am	Sign-in	
8:00am – 8:25am	WCSS introductions (Jim Chramosta) + overview (Lee)	
8:25am – 8:30am	Hazard Assessment	
8:30am – 9:35am	Dryland equipment deployment	
9:35am – 9:45am	Break	
9:45am – 11:05am	Equipment deployment, boat/vessel briefing, corralling, herding, diversion boom + shoreline containment	

Date / Time: June 25th / PM	Description	Obstacles / Challenges / Comments
11:45am – 12:15pm	Check-in	
12:15pm – 12:50pm	WCSS introductions / overview / hazard assessment	
12:50pm – 1:25pm	Dryland equipment deployment	
1:25pm – 1:35pm	Break	
1:35pm – 2:30pm	Equipment deployment – corralling, herding, diversion boom Shoreline containment wasn't completed as a storm came in and we had to pack up to observe the 30/30 rule	

Introductions and WCSS Overview

For many years Co-op 9 has had only one volunteer in the Fort Nelson area on their Steering Committee. Don Brown who has been a valued member of the Steering committee for the last 25 years as an Alternate Chair, Chair, and now sits on the Executive Sub Committee, has been actively trying to recruit for more support in his area and was successful in finding another member to join the steering committee, Jeff Carleton. Having Jeff as a local contact will help in planning future training exercises in Fort Nelson going forward.

Dryland Equipment Deployment

Each Co-op exercise consists of a dryland equipment demonstration, where instructors will talk through the different types of equipment you can find in the WCSS inventory while also describing the specific spill response tactics that will be used in the following Equipment Deployment. In lakes specifically they discussed herding, corralling, diversion boom and exclusion boom.

Lake Equipment Deployment

Lake spill response and recovery is unique in the sense that product doesn't react the same way as it does in a river flowing with the current, instead oil on a lake will spread out from the wind and waves and continue to thin out to a sheen. Is the approximately 1/10th of a human hair which makes it a bit more difficult to recover with conventional skimmers. The best way to manage sheen is using herding and corralling techniques. Herding requires the use of 2 jetboats to tow the boom in a "U" shape slowly to collect the product. Once product is gathered, you can either corral or tow the boom to shore for recovery.

Pictured on the left is the diversion boom which you can use to tow into the shore for easier recovery from the checkmark point in the boom. Pictured on the right is the exclusion boom that provides shoreline protection and product can be collected in the “V” shape of the boom; this tactic holds a dual purpose.

We were able to deploy the exclusion boom in the Fort Nelson exercise, and the morning session of the Dawson Creek exercises, however we had to pack up early in the afternoon session, after the corralling, and observe the 30/30 rule as there was a storm quickly approaching. If you count a second lightning strike in less than 30 seconds, it indicates the storm is close and you are to seek shelter for at least 30 minutes. As the exercise was mostly completed, it was determined the safest option was to get everyone and equipment into shore and off the water as quickly as possible and conclude the exercise for the day.

Attendance:

Stats from Co-op Exercise Sessions	June 23 / AM	June 25 / AM	June 25 / PM	Total
No. of Participants	11	37	15	63
No. of Companies in Co-op	57			
No. of Co-op Member Companies Represented	**8**	**20**	**10**	**31**
% of Co-op Membership Representation	**14%**	**35%**	**18%**	**54%**

Member Companies in Attendance:		
ARC RESOURCES LTD	GRAN TIERRA CANADA LTD.	PEYTO EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT CORP.
BENCH CREEK RESOURCES LTD	GRIZZLY RESOURCES LTD.	PRAIRIE PROVIDENT RESOURCES
BONTERRA ENERGY CORP.	ISH ENERGY LTD.	R360 ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS
CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED	MURPHY OIL COMPANY LTD.	SECURE WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE CORP.
CANLIN ENERGY CORPORATION	NORTHRIVER MIDSTREAM INC.	SHELL CANADA LIMITED
CARDINAL ENERGY LTD.	NTE ENERGY CANADA LTD.	TOURMALINE OIL CORP.
CAVVY PRODUCTION LTD.	OVINTIV CANADA ULC	VERMILION ENERGY INC.
CENOVUS ENERGY INC.	PACIFIC CANBRIAM ENERGY LIMITED	WHITECAP RESOURCES INC.
COELACANTH ENERGY INC.	PARAMOUNT RESOURCES LTD.	YOHO RESOURCES INC.
CONOCOPHILLIPS CANADA RESOURCES CORP.	PEMBINA PIPELINE CORPORATION	
ENERCAPITA ENERGY LTD.	PETRONAS ENERGY CANADA LTD.	

Member Companies Not In Attendance:		
ADURO RESOURCES LTD.	CNOOC PETROLEUM NORTH AMERICAN ULC	SABA OIL & GAS LTD.
ADVANTAGE ENERGY LTD.	EOG CANADA OIL & GAS INC.	STRATHCONA RESOURCES LTD.
AITKEN CREEK GAS STORAGE LTD.	HARVEST OPERATIONS CORP.	SUKUNKA NATURAL RESOURCES INC.
ALBRIGHT FLUSH SYSTEMS LTD.	IMPERIAL OIL RESOURCES LIMITED	SUNCOR ENERGY INC.
ALTAGAS HOLDINGS INC.	KELOR RENTALS LTD.	TERRA ENERGY CORP.

AQT WATER MANAGEMENT INC.	KELT EXPLORATION LTD.	TIDEWATER MIDSTREAM AND INFRASTRUCTURE LTD.
CALIMA ENERGY INC.	LOGAN ENERGY CORP.	TIDEWATER WESTERN PIPELINE GP LTD.
CANADIAN SPIRIT RESOURCES INC.	PAVILION ENERGY CORP.	WILDBOY HOLDINGS LTD.
CHEVRON CANADA LIMITED	PROCYON ENERGY CORP.	

Non-Member Companies or Member Companies Representing a Different Co-op in Attendance:		
611672 ALBERTA LTD.	G2B DEVELOPMENT	RIBBON CREEK RESOURCES INC.
BCER	GRIZZLY RESOURCES LTD.	ROCNOC ENERGY CORP.
CAVVY PRODUCTION LTD.	NEW WEST DATA CORP.	SUTTON ENERGY LTD.
CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED (CO-OP 5)	NORTHERN ROCKIES FIRE RESCUE	TEINE ENERGY LTD.
DEL CANADA GP LTD.	PRAIRIE THUNDER RESOURCES LTD.	TYKEWEST LIMITED