



OIL SPILL COOPERATIVE BULLETIN

February | 2019 | ISSUE 1

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

As part of our initiative to increase communication with our member companies, WCSS will be replacing the bi-annual newsletter format with bulletins that will be released at the end of every second month. Inspired by tireless volunteers that represent industry at several Steering Committee meeting tables, our intention is to provide high quality and detailed discussion points that will augment your spill preparedness programs and enhance your safety meetings.

To keep us on the right track, we are inviting you to send suggestions to our [comment box](#), or respond to our brief [online survey](#) and win a chance to receive a set of [Equipment Deployment Banners](#).



HOW PREPARED ARE YOUR RESPONDERS?

Not all preparedness plans are created equally, yet it is essential that they be created. Proximity to water bodies, environmentally, culturally sensitive and highly populated areas, and high-risk operations will play a key role in the level of response capability a company must have in place.

[The WCSS Oil Spill Contingency Plan](#), while supplemental to all company ERPs, is designed to assist a Responsible Party transition from the emergency phase to the operational phase of a spill. Ideally, member companies will have placed [Section 2.2](#) on a frequent update rotation, or have a similar program in place within their own ERPs.



There are several factors to consider when identifying spill response resources that should be in place in the event of a release. At a minimum, WCSS recommends that the following be taken into consideration when building your internal response team, or when seeking external spill response expertise:

Capabilities of Team / Company

- Number of available staff and their contact information
- Years and types of spill response experience
- Hours of operation (do they provide 24/7 service?)
- Available equipment

Support Services

- Which Incident Command System roles may be supported by these individuals, and to what degree?

Containment & Recovery Operations

- In which environments have your responders gained experience, and with what products?
 - o Land-based spills only
 - o Slow and fast moving water (creeks, streams, rivers)
 - o Waterbodies such as lakes & run-off ponds
 - o Various wetlands
 - o Specific experience with releases of oil, produced water, emulsions, etc.

Training Verification

- Level of ICS training of your responders
- Which WCSS Spill Responder Series training has been completed
- How many WCSS-certified Boat Operators your company has access to at varying times of the year
- Types of WCSS Coop Exercises that have been attended; participation in hands-on components where applicable
- Hazwoper, First Aid, WHMIS, TDG, H2S Alive
- Determine the frequency of challenging the knowledge and skill obtained through training

References

- Documented experience from previous spill responses outlining specific roles and responsibilities
- Referrals from peer companies, colleagues and other industry contacts

NEW TO THE FLEET

Part of the WCSS mandate is to keep our member companies ahead of the curve in terms of access to initial spill response equipment where it is most appropriate. Behind the scenes, ongoing maintenance and evaluation of equipment is carried out to ensure that industry remains in a state of readiness. Throughout the year, the WCSS Operations Team, along with input from the [Executive Sub-Committee](#), builds and constantly evaluates the Capital Budget plan.

In 2018, WCSS added:

- 3rd Training Trailer located in [Area P](#)
- 1 ISRU sea-can to be used as a floating inventory
- Replaced 3 airboat trailers
- 2000' of river boom
- 7th Wildlife sea-can
- 8th Wildlife sea-can
- Prototype for Boat Shelters
- [Area E](#) ISRU in Grande Cache
- [Area T](#) ISRU relocation from Red Earth ([Area D](#)) to south of Grande Prairie
- 16' Aqua-Dek boat
- Old [Area N](#) Regional OSCAR Unit has been replaced
- New 40' Regional OSCAR unit in [Area I/J](#)



Air Boat Trailer



Area I/J Regional OSCAR contents



Boat Shelter Prototype

2019 will be focused on:

- Boom cache sea-can
- Response boat
- 6 Boat Shelters
- 2 Replacement sea-cans (Zama and Whitecourt)
- Decontamination 20' sea-can
- Elastec groovy drum skimmer and power pack
- 0.5m Boom Vane

EQUIPMENT USE STATISTICS

WCSS always strives to ensure immediate access to equipment for member companies. Given the extent of our inventory, we have the capability of sourcing equipment from various areas. To ensure you are aware of what is *not* available near your operations, refer to the [Equipment Currently in Use](#) to plan accordingly.

To Date:

Equipment Type	Equipment #	Usual Storage	Coop Area	Date Removed	Date Returned
Winter Unit		Acheson	I/J	Feb. 14, 2019	Feb. 14, 2019

TRAINING STATISTICS

Coop Steering Committees have shown a strong interest in offering Winter Response exercises this year. Winter response offers its own set of complexities and weather dependency is at the forefront of issues to manage. The WCSS policy cut off temperature for implementing cold weather mitigation plans is -25°C including windchill – something our entire jurisdictional boundary has become quite familiar with over the past few weeks. Luckily, of the



6 winter exercises we have run thus far, only 2 days have been altered to keep our attendees inside to conduct:

- Tabletop exercises
- Review our [website](#) & new [app](#)
- Discuss the WCSS recommended [Ice Safety Plan](#)
- Review winter response equipment available through dryland demonstrations



To Date:

- 1** Awareness Exercise
- 6** Winter Exercises
- 1** Open Registration: Spill Responder 300



Refer to the WCSS [Training Page](#) for all upcoming events.

COMING SOON

- Membership invoices and information packages will be sent out by mail in the next few weeks; if your contact information has changed, please update with info@wcss.ab.ca
- We are working towards a program that will allow our members to pre-sign an Equipment Lease Agreement electronically
- Our Equipment Inventory System currently undergoing reconstruction to simplify navigation