WCSS Western Canadian Spill Services Ltd.

Oilspill Cooperative

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009 VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

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Message From Al McFadyen WCSS Managing Director

The WCSS Board of Directors has asked us to maintain last year's membership fee structure; no fee increase in 2009. Like many of our members WCSS will "tighten its belt" and look for cost control measures that don't compromise the industry's spill preparedness program. Fortunately the Board of Directors has been supportive and proactive in upgrading our spill response equipment over the last several years; we're in pretty good shape at this point in time. Volunteers at the Oil Spill Cooperative level also deserve credit for managing their respective areas and helping control costs.

This year's membership invoices were distributed in late March and we are happy to report that about 50% of our membership is already in good standing; for a list of members in good standing go to www.wcss.ab.ca.

WCSS Equipment Report

In Q1 of 2009 an Equipment Task Group was struck to review WCSS's current equipment program as a follow up to the organization's commitment in its annual operational plan. The Executive Sub Committee is in agreement with the following Task Group recommendations and it is anticipated that the following changes will occur in Q2 of 2009:

1. Calgary regional equipment will be relocated east of its current home in NW Calgary; it was agreed that a site will be identified in the Strathmore area which will improve response times for our membership.

WCSS
Western Canadian Spill Services Ltd.

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

SAMPLE TEST

is a member in good standing with Western Canadian Spill Services for the year 2009

Given this 23 day of April, 2009

Alan McFadyen
WCSS Managing Director

Membership No.M09000

2009 WCSS Membership Certificate

2. The Whitecourt regional equipment will be relocated to High Level; with regional equipment already located in close proximity to Whitecourt (Acheson) and a gap on the upper Peace River, this move improves our spill preparedness program without additional expenditures.

3. WCSS boats will be relocated to regional equipment locations; this move will lower our maintenance costs and improve our boat handling safety program.

   The Task Group has also identified some changes to the placement of our initial spill response equipment (Cooperative Equipment); the Executive Sub Committee requested additional assessment work with feedback from Cooperatives prior to any changes.

4. The new Regional OSCAR unit was introduced at an open house event in Fort St. John on April 2nd, 2009.

Fort St. John-Regional OSCAR

Quote Dave Baker, P.Eng. Area C Chairman - "We're really encouraged and excited by the presence of this new trailer in the BC Peace. I'm really impressed by the improvements that have been made over our previous response trailer and have no doubt that the improved lay out and capabilities afforded by this unit will enhance our ability to respond to spills in the future."

5. A new work boat with the capability to house our Bow Skimmer is near completion and should be ready for water testing in early June; the new watercraft will be located in Slave Lake and will improve our response capability in the area.

Interview With An Incident Commander – Les Swelin

On Father's Day, Sunday June 15th, 2008 at about 9pm came the first devastating blow; a call from the control centre advising that due to a line pressure drop on Pembina's 15cm diameter Cremona crude pipeline; the line had been shut-in. The second major blow came within the hour when Pembina's field crew advised that they had closed all pipeline block valves and that there was oil detected in the Red Deer River about 5 km north of Sundre and approximately 33 km upstream from Glennifer Lake. Les Swelin's Father Day celebrations came to an abrupt end and his worst nightmare had just become a reality!

What kind of product was in the river and did you have a sense for the volume of oil released?
Using information from our SCADA system and calculations from line-fill between block valves our initial estimate was around 20m3 of light sweet crude.

What were the river conditions like at the time of the spill?
The river condition was not great; very fast current velocity and high water levels.

Areal Photo – Red Deer River

What helped you get through those first critical hours (initial spill response 101)?
I can think of a few things that helped me during those first critical hours:

- Corporately, the field guys were instrumental during those first few hours and management were quick to assist and provide support.
- My involvement with WCSS really helped; I knew where to get resources and am familiar with spill preparedness and response issues.
- The check lists in the WCSS Oil Spill Contingency Plan were also very helpful; I don't think you can go too far wrong if you are using those check-lists as a benchmark for a spill response.
- Implementing the Incident Command System (ICS) in the initial phase of the response was also invaluable.

Incident Commander (Second from Right)

Boom Deployment on Glennifer Lake

Media Tour

Oily Debris

- Getting a helicopter in the air was extremely important; we had two flying pretty steady during that first week.
- Finally, getting consensus from the ERCB and Alberta Environment that we should focus our containment and recovery efforts at Glennifer Lake and not attempt to deploy equipment in the raging Red Deer River really helped.

What were some of the important issues that you were faced with during the first few days?

- Communicating effectively with all of the stakeholders was a huge and difficult task; we did a pretty decent job, but it took a lot of resources.
- Identifying an appropriate staging area was also important; the folks at the Care Free Resort on Glennifer Lake were very helpful and cooperative.
- Getting our hands on good maps took longer than what we would have liked.
- Our water sampling program went well but it was a challenge getting the analysis back as quickly as we would have liked them.

Did the regulators implement their "one-window" policy and was it effective?

- Yes, I think that the agencies were quite effective.

You were dealing with a spill in a high-profile area; how did you communicate with the public and media and how important was it to communicate?

- Our community relations program started on day 1; we established an 1800 number, a website, held a series of public meetings and talked to the locals on a one-on-one basis.
- The program was fairly effective; we sensed that for the most part people accepted that we were doing the best that we could.

How much oil was recovered?

- There was about 6500 kg of oily debris recovered from the spill.

Wildlife Response Unit

Response Boats

Air Boat

Bow Skimmer – Achieson Barge

What wildlife concerns were there and how did you manage issues linked to wildlife?

- Wildlife was a concern; there were a lot of migratory birds on Glennifer Lake and lots of them with offspring.
- Provincial Fish and Wildlife bought in some hazing equipment, we used equipment out of WCSS's wildlife response unit and we had personnel walk the shoreline and assist with keeping birds away from contaminated areas.

What are a few tips that you can pass-on to potential oil spill Incident Commanders?

- First of all; focus on prevention. We know that accidents can be out of your control like this one that was attributed to extremely high water, but if you can prevent a spill you're a lot further ahead.
- Get involved in your Oil Spill Cooperative.
- Have your oil spill contingency plan close at hand; use the check-lists as a resource.
- Know where the access points are downstream from your operations.
- Get in the air as soon as possible; that is the best way to assess the problem and show stakeholders the actual situation.
- The Incident Command System works; implement it as soon as possible.
- Be open to suggestions from all levels; listen to regulators, citizens and contractors.

Oil Spill Containment Boom

STATISTICAL REPORT – DECEMBER 31ST 2008

Measures of Performance -To Dec 31 2008					
Spill Responses	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Total**
Land based (WCSS members)	1	0	0	0	1
Land based (non members)	0	0	0	0	0
Land based (unknown origin)	2	0	0	0	2
Surface water (WCSS members)	1	3	0	0	4
Surface water (non members)	0	0	2	0	2
Surface water (unknown origin)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	4	3	2	0	9
Equipment Usage					
Response units/equip[ment used for spills	2	13	2	0	17
Response units used for training	1	7	6	1	15
Response boats used for Spills	0	10	7	0	17
Response boats used for Training	4	3	9	1	17
Days Equipment used for spills	2	61	33	0	96
Days equipment used for training	3	5	7	1	16
Field Testing and Improvement days		2			
Training Exercises					
Dryland/classroom	0	1	3	0	4
Spill Responder	0	3	0	0	3
ICS Course	0	2	0	1	3
Winter exercises	1	1	0	0	2
River exercises	0	0	2	0	2
Lake exercises	0	2	2	0	4
Tank Truck rollover exercises	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	1	9	7	1	18
Membership compliance	88	93	91	91	
Government Reported Spills					
Alberta					0
North Eastern British Columbia	143	126	146	12`1	415
Saskatchewan					
Communications	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Total**
No. media articles	0	0	2	0	2
Operations (by year)	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**
WCSS Equipment Utilization - Spills	20	13	13	9	34
Yearly Total Spills of Unknown Origin	4	4	4	2	2
WCSS Cooperative Exercises	19	20	20	20	18
KRT Involvement - spills	4	0	0	0	0
KRT Involvement - spills of unknown origin	4	4	4	1	0
Industry Statis - Reported Oil & SW Spills	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**
Alberta (April 1 - March 31)	1443	1429	1516	1508	1461
British Columbia (N.E.)	54	N/A	N/A	567	536
Saskatchewan (VR-1)	257	199	167	298	-

Spills Of Unknown Origin

Martin Krezalek, Emergency Response Officer, Alberta Environment (ASERT)

The “improper disposal of waste” or the “prohibited release of a substance” in legal speak, or “illegal dumping” in plain language is a very serious offence under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. If convicted an individual could face fines ranging from $50,000.00 to $100,000.00 and/or imprisonment up to 2 years, that’s right, an individual could get a $100,000.00 fine AND go to jail for 2 years. A company if convicted could face fines ranging from $500,000.00 to $1,000,000.00 and that’s just the start!

Spill of Unknown Origin – Grande Prairie Area

If a person or company is dumping illegally they still have to report it to Alberta Environment. No one is going to dump a substance and then call in to report themselves but if you don’t and you’re convicted that’s another charge, another $50,000.00 for an individual and another $500,000.00 for a company.

In addition, the law states that no one can profit from breaking the law. If you’re convicted of illegal dumping, one of the things the Prosecutor will present is how much it would have cost to properly dispose of the material and that will be added onto the other fines.

Dumping of a substance that impacts fish and/or fish habitat also introduces the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Dumping of a substance that impacts migratory birds and you’re going to have the Canadian Wildlife Service. Dumping on private land, the owner can sue you for damages and if someone gets hurt as a direct consequence of the dumping a Criminal investigation ensues.

Bottom line; is illegal dumping worth it?

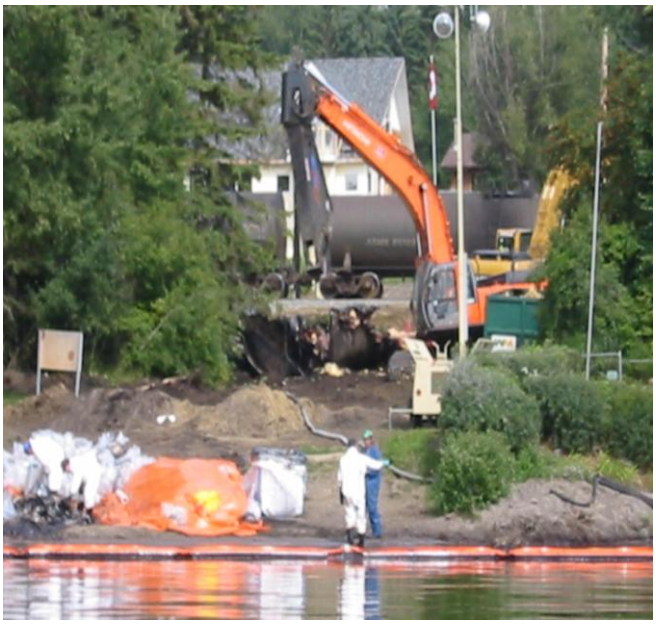
2009 Oilspill Cooperative Training Exercise Schedule

Zone	Coop	Exercise Type	Date
1	P	Joint Lake with Area Q	June 18
	Q	Joint Lake with Area P	June 18
	S	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	May 13
2	H	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	May 28
	M	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	September 9
	N	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	June 24
	O	Joint Lake with Area U	June 16
	U	Joint Lake with Area O	June 16
3	G	River Exercise (Slow Water)	September 16
	I/J	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	April 2
4	D	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	April 15
		Lake Exercise	September 9
	W	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	April 16
5	VR-1	Winter IRT	March 24
		Lake Exercise	September 16
	Y	Winter Exercise	March 26
6	A	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	April 22
	C	Classroom Exercise ICS 100	March 11
		River (Ft. Nelson)	August 26
	T	Lake Exercise	June 24
	E	R & D/River Exercise	September 2

WAS ANYTHING LEARNED FROM WABAMUN?

RON GOODMAN INNOVATIVE VENTURES (IVL) LTD. COCHRANE

It is often said that "Hindsight gives 20/20 vision". What does hindsight tell us about Wabamun? On August 3, 2005 there was an oil spill into Lake Wabamun. The response to this situation was somewhat shaky during the first few days, but improved once a management structure was established and expert oil-spill response advice became available. The then Minister of Alberta Environment, Guy Boutilier recognized that citizens' expectations were not being met by Alberta Government agencies and by mid-August had established the Environmental Protection Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Eric Newell, Chancellor of the University of Alberta and a panel of experts to recommend changes in the emergency response capability of Alberta. Details of these recommendations can be found in the Commission report. Highlights include the establishment of a dedicated response group within Alberta Environment (Alberta Environment Support and Emergency Response Team (ASERT)), the development within the emergency community of a proactive rather than reactive response philosophy, the implementation of a one-window emergency call centre, and the establishment of a single agency responsible for emergency response (The Alberta Emergency Management Agency). All of these recommendations have been implemented by the various government agencies involved and have proven their worth and effectiveness in recent Alberta spill situations such as Glennifer Lake. So as a result of post Wabamun considerations, there has been an improvement in official response to emergency situations in Alberta.



Lake Wabamun - 2005

What technology gaps were identified during the heavy-oil, fresh water Wabamun response?
The response to any spill can always be improved and each responder will have their list of technology or methodology response gaps.

What questions could not or were not answered?

- The dynamics and formation of tar balls. Why do they sink and rise again?
- Detection of oil under water or on the bottom. An improvement of a stick/sorbent pad.
- What is the Net Environmental Benefit of cutting Reed Beds or the aggressive removal of oil from the bottom?
- Effective skimming and removal of heavy oil from the water surface.
- Documenting mass balance.

This list is far from complete and everyone involved with the response at Wabamun would probably have a different list. Since spills the size of Wabamun are very infrequent, it is important to identify issues in order to advance the response capabilities.

The only recommendation of the Environmental Protection Commission that has not been implemented is the establishment of an Institute to undertake research on emergency research technology and process.