



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COVID-19 Pandemic Response

WCSS recognizes that our member companies have been responding to an extraordinarily severe impact to their operations, and we'd like for you to know that we are working diligently (from home where possible) to ensure that [your equipment](#) is in a state of preparedness and that your training needs are being addressed. Each of our [team members](#) is available via phone and/or email, ready to support your spill preparedness needs. We encourage you to refer to our website [homepage](#) or [LinkedIn](#) page for all updates, and encourage you to forward them on as you see fit.

If there is one thing that can be learned from the oil and gas industry in western Canada, it is resiliency. WCSS has been working with and for our member companies for nearly 50 years, and we are proud to have advanced steadily together to build a well-primed preparedness and response support program that works. This kind of mutual effort requires patience, dedication, optimism and practicality. We are confident that despite current major setbacks, industry will see its way to a stronger stance.

### WCSS Board of Directors

WCSS is pleased to introduce our new Board structure and looks forward to working collaboratively in the best interest of our member companies:

CAPP	Anna Taylor	Husky Energy
	Jonathan Schindlbeck	Suncor
	Tara Payment	CAPP
Coops	Nolan Steinwand	PETRONAS Energy Canada Ltd
Independent	Mike Nerbas	Whitecap Resources
Pipelines	Greg Carter	Enbridge
	Jamie Kereliuk (Chair)	Trans Mountain
Controller	Jaye Pye	Energy Safety Canada
WCSS	Scott Dionne	WCSS

## Summary of Operational Assessment

In 2019, Ridgeline Response was retained by WCSS to conduct an Operations Assessment to determine whether the right types and quantities of equipment are situated in the most appropriate locations to best serve our member companies. The following tasks were used to accomplish this:

1. Review hydrocarbon spill data provided by the various regulators (AER, AEP, SK MER, BC OGC and the CER) throughout WCSS' jurisdiction between 2010 and 2018. Of particular interest in the study were those oil spills that resulted in impacts to water as these would be the most likely to result in WCSS equipment deployments;
2. Review all WCSS equipment deployments for spills, training or other purposes during this same period and compare to the available capacity for each type of equipment;
3. Examine each deployment instance and determine whether equipment shortages may exist overall or within a given co-op.

The total number of reported spills during this time frame was 29,942. The total number of Risk Rank 4 (hydrocarbon impacting water) spills was 1,477. Note that Ridgeline observed a decreasing trend in the total number of spills occurring, especially from 2013 to present.

The total number of WCSS deployments during this evaluation period was 93 for spills, 221 for training events and 34 for other miscellaneous requirements (Figure 1). The latter category was usually proactive/stand-by requests for member companies conducting in-stream maintenance activities, etc. Ridgeline observed a 43% increase in spill deployments and a 400% increase in training deployments over the assessment period.

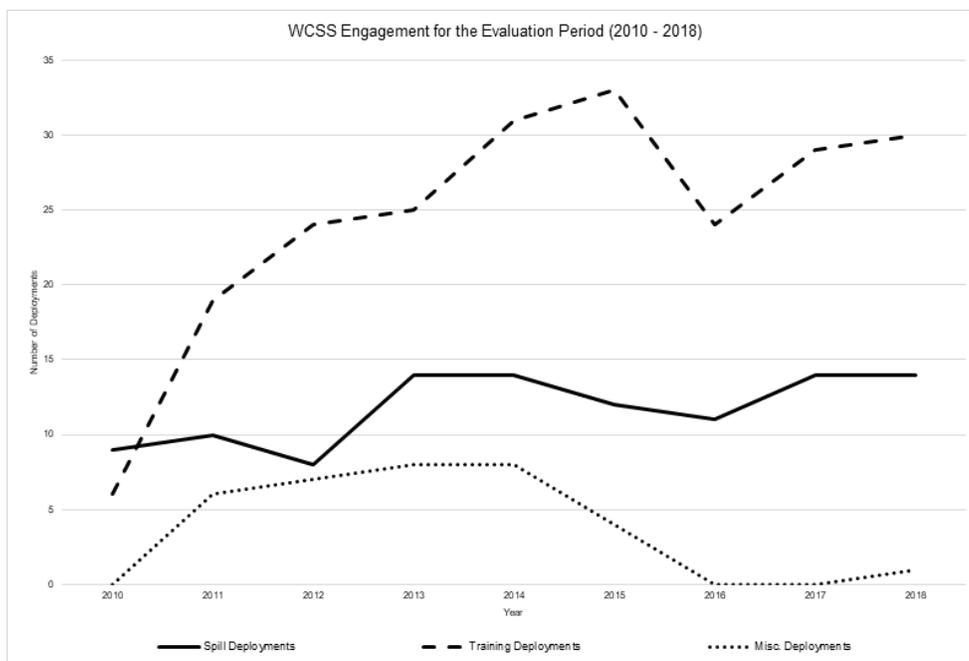


Figure 1

WCSS equipment was deployed for an average of **6.4%** of all reported hydrocarbon releases that impacted water throughout our entire jurisdiction (Figure 2). Note that the large increase in Area M was due to the release at Gleniffer Lake in 2012.

WCSS equipment was split into 12 equipment categories (Figure 3) The available capacity of each equipment category was determined to be the quantity of that equipment multiplied by number of days in the assessment period.

For example, our Initial Spill Response Unit (ISRU) capacity was determined to be 91,980 days (365 days x 9 years x 28 units).

Figure 3 illustrate equipment utilization by equipment category. Note that the maximum utilization of any equipment was >7% of its available capacity.

Equipment shortages for each area were noted whenever a piece of equipment was used in the area and there was no corresponding inventory in that area. For example, if a skimmer was used in Area M and there was no skimmer already cached in Area M, it was noted as a shortage. Shortages do not account for strategic decisions to locate certain equipment nearby in regional locations, or to keep them centralized in Acheson and mobilize as needed. WCSS has reviewed the data for each co-op and has determined that no equipment shortages exist for any given co-op.

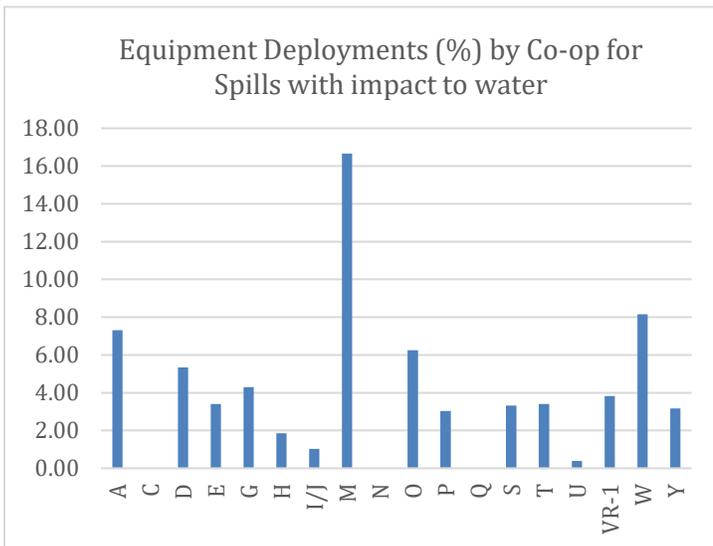


Figure 2

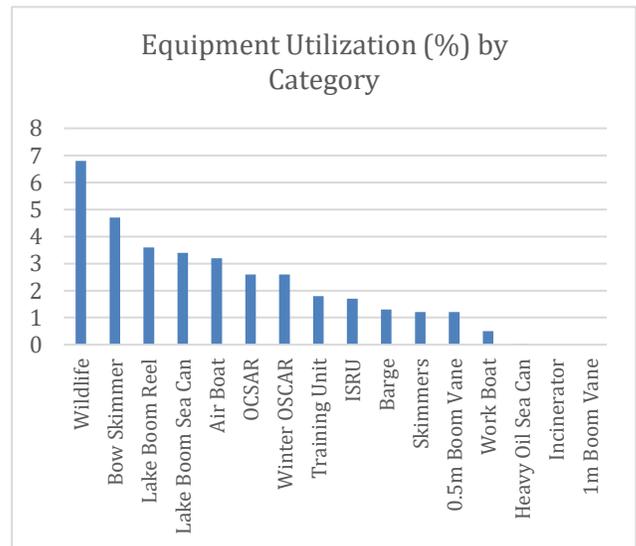


Figure 3

**Overall, the Operations Assessment has determined that no equipment shortages currently exist overall even after applying a 20% contingency factor.**

If WCSS member companies would like to review the entire report, please contact us at [info@wcsc.ab.ca](mailto:info@wcsc.ab.ca) and we will gladly provide an electronic copy.

## EQUIPMENT

Though we did not have any spill-related requests for equipment in Q1 2020, we did take a couple of units out of service for modifications and repairs.

The Spring maintenance run will begin soon, once again reminding us all about the importance of checking inventories, running rotating equipment, and ensuring that the general condition of equipment is ideal. If your company has its own response equipment or perhaps an MOU with a spill response contractor, we'd like to encourage you to take this opportunity to review that maintenance program, check responder training certificate expiry dates and have a look through your ERP and Oil Spill Contingency Manuals to confirm names and phone numbers.

One of the action items that came from the 2019 Annual Chairmen's Meeting was to have a third-party wildlife specialist assess the contents of our wildlife response units to determine ideal inventory. This has since been completed and the recommended changes have been made to both Areas [I/J](#) and [T](#), with plans to implement the same changes to the remaining units in Areas [C](#), [D](#), [P](#), [S](#), [Y](#) and [VR-1](#) as scheduling permits.



### *Did you know....*

Setting up exclusion fencing around areas where contaminants have pooled on surface is critical to protecting wildlife. There may be multiple areas where fencing is required but is it not advisable to set up perimeter fencing around the entire spill site, as this may have long term damaging effects on soil structure and roots. Always consider a low impact approach when delineating your spill.

Generally, the objectives of wildlife management at spill sites are to:

1. Prevent oil from reaching critical habitats by using protective booming and/or other response technologies.
2. Reducing the oiling of wildlife by preventing animals from entering the impacted area.
3. Limit human presence in those areas. Pre-emptive capture is rarely allowed. Instead, give wildlife a safe haven by identifying similar habitat to where they have been displaced.

The following are some typical strategies for keeping wildlife out of an area impacted by a spill:

### **ACTION**

Consider following preventative measures to keep larger animals from entering an oil spill site.

### **PROCEDURE**

Construct a wildlife exclusion fence:

- Identify the fence location. The fence should be kept tight around the area of impact that wildlife have access to (e.g. around the oiled area at the breakpoint or areas where contaminants have pooled).
- Use orange snow-fence or panel fence, posts, 8' 2x4s, pie-plates and scare tape. Fence should be at least 6' high. Create jogs or visual breaks in the fence line. If wildlife cannot see an end to the fence, they will go through it.
- Attach (8' 2x4s) to each post and attach pie-plates to each 2x4 stud so that they spin and flap in the wind.
- If working between March and October, install a silt fence along the bottom of the wildlife fence. The silt fence should be keyed 10cm into the ground to prevent amphibians and reptiles from entering the site.
- Conduct routine inspections of the fence (daily) and maintain documentation.

## **ACTION**

Consider following preventative measures to keep amphibians, reptiles and small mammals from entering the spill site.

## **PROCEDURE**

Construct a barrier fence along the inside of the snow fence with pit traps at several locations.

- Utilize reclamation fabric, tie straps and pit traps to keep small animals from entering the spill site and trapping animals that are inside the fence perimeter.
- Dig a 10cm trench along the inside of the snow fence.
- Bury the bottom of reclamation fabric that is a minimum of 1 meter in height and attach it to the snow fence.
- Place pit traps along the fence, inside and outside the perimeter, at locations identified by the wildlife specialist. Keep the fenced area small, especially for amphibians. They will follow the fence for long periods of time and often die just trying to get around it.
- Monitor the traps and release animals that are not contaminated; contaminated animals will be assessed by the wildlife specialist and local agency representative to determine follow up actions.
- Maintain documentation.

## **ACTION**

Consider a variety of deterrents for keeping birds out of the spill site.

## **PROCEDURE**

Utilize scare tape (holographic and commercial scare tape; surveyor flagging tape also works) and a variety of hazing equipment.

- In small areas deploy stringers at 3m (~10') intervals across the spill site with scare tape attached every meter.
- Supplement scare tape with scare cannons, bird guard, effigies, car lot flagging, scare tape and other hazing equipment and change the position of the equipment on a frequent basis.
- In larger areas use a combination of equipment, boats and other materials identified by the wildlife specialist and local agency representative.

## TRAINING

Due to provincial and federal government direction to cease all group events and practice physical distancing, our Board of Directors has agreed with our recommendation to offer the [Spill Responder 100](#) online training to anyone (including both member and non-member companies) at no cost throughout 2020. This will ensure that companies can still meet the regulatory requirements for oil spill response training. For companies that used this option to meet compliance requirements in 2019, the inability to do so in consecutive years – as outlined in Section 16.1.1 of AER's [Directive 071](#) – will be waived.

To help us ensure that we are maintaining proper exercise attendance tracking for our member companies in specific Coop Areas, and also to ensure that you are not charged for the training, please note that a single URL will be shared with our member companies in the following manner in the coming weeks:

- WCSS website [Training Page](#)
- All current email distribution lists

Should you wish to update contact information with us at this time it would be most appreciated, and let us know which Coop Area distribution list you are having us update. If you are unsure of which Coop Areas where you are required to ensure compliance, please contact [amy.grenier@wcss.ab.ca](mailto:amy.grenier@wcss.ab.ca).

We did manage to squeeze in a few training events before everything became very different:

- 2** Winter Exercises
- 2** Contract Spill Responder 300
- 1** Contract Winter Response
- 1** Open Registration Spill Responder 300

At each of the training events students were exposed to, and encouraged to work with, our latest winter response tool: the Ice Sled Saw. Powered by a 4-stroke engine, these saws are dependable and quieter than our current saws. The cage that surrounds the 30" blade protects workers' hands and feet and provides the same suitability for workers as that of our current upright caged saws. The new ice sled saw is stored in the I/J winter response unit in Acheson.



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Nolan Steinwand

**Companies Represented:** Calpine Canada, Pengrowth Energy Corp, PETRONAS Energy Canada Ltd

**Positions Held:** Steering Committee, Alternate Chairman, Chairman, Zone 6 Executive Sub Committee Rep, Alternate Provincial Chairman, newly appointed Provincial Chairman

**Coop Areas Represented:** A, C, E, T

**Reason for Volunteering:** I have always enjoyed the outdoors, project management, the excitement of spill response, and sharing my knowledge for environmental stewardship. WCSS has always had great

volunteers that are dedicated to the cause. Our volunteers want to ensure that industry members are prepared and trained for any unfortunate release incidents that may occur. That focus continues to drive our volunteers and our desire for continued improvement. WCSS provides excellent upstream oil and gas spill response training and support for its member companies. That is something I enjoy being part of.



**Name:** Mark Jones

**Companies Represented:** Inter Pipeline Ltd

**Number of Years of Volunteer Service:** 11

**Positions Held:** Steering Committee member, Alternate Chairman, Chairman, Zone 3 Executive Sub-Committee Representative, newly appointed Alternate Provincial Chairman

**Coop Areas Represented:** I/J, G, P

**Reason for Volunteering:** I feel it's the right and responsible thing to do if I wish to earn a living in this industry