



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

After developing and reviewing ideal parameters to offer any open registration, contract or coop exercise training in an indoor or outdoor setting, the WCSS Operations Team has come to the decision that no further hands-on training will take place in 2020. Bearing in mind the federal and provincial recommendations surrounding physical distancing measures in group settings, it was agreed that the risk of re-introducing the virus in close proximity situations would not outweigh the reward of maintaining a status quo of training completion this year while the threat of a second wave of COVID-19 exists within our jurisdictional boundary.

Please note that the [online Spill Responder 100](#) remains free for all member companies, regulators, Indigenous communities, emergency response personnel, post-secondary education facilities, and the public for the remainder of the year.

Check out the Training section of this bulletin to find out more about our ongoing projects!



MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our member companies for maintaining their status of [Good Standing in 2020](#). To date, about 84% of fees have been collected. Our invoices are retroactive, meaning that fees are based on activity for each company in the previous year. These fees enable the management team to proudly serve our members by ensuring the following:

- A dedicated maintenance program for [conventional and specialized initial response equipment](#) worth approximately \$11M
- Facilitation of various [training events](#) throughout our jurisdictional boundary, supported by the ongoing development of training aids
- Maintenance of the [Oil Spill Contingency Manual](#), including updating information for [Critical Control Points](#)
- Ongoing management of the [Field Improvement Program](#)
- Regular engagement with [volunteer member company representatives](#) that make up the Coop Steering Committees

EQUIPMENT

All WCSS Equipment Custodians have been contacted to inquire about any additional protocols that our member companies may need to be aware of when accessing the equipment for a spill.

Currently, access remains business as usual in all Coop Areas, with an additional pre-entrance questionnaire that must be filled out prior to arriving onsite at the CNRL Chinchaga yard in [Area T](#). As with any custodian location, it is expected that anyone sent to pick up WCSS equipment will observe all site-specific safety protocols.

All WCSS [response vessels](#) have been water tested and remain ready in the Regional Equipment locations, and the inventory / maintenance program for all Coop Areas is well underway.

2 response vessels will be sent to the online Michener Allen auction, set to take place July 25, 2020. For those who happen to be in the market, here are the specs:



Make: OMC
Model: Roughneck
Year: 1995
Length: 16'
Motor: 105hp, Johnson Jet Drive outboard
Trailer: EZ Loader single axle, no brakes



Make: Outlaw
Model: Lynx
Year: 2001
Length: 17'
Motor: 175hp, Mercury XR2 inboard jet drive
Trailer: EZ Loader, tandem axle, surge brakes

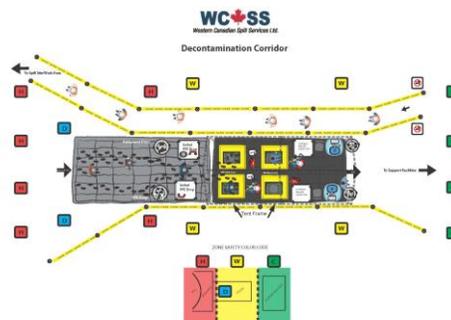
While Q1 was relatively quiet, Q2 had our Operations Team working steadily behind the scenes with the deployment of:

- 3 x 20' Initial Spill Response Units (ISRU)
- 1 x 16' Winter OSCAR trailer
- 1 x Airboat
- 4 x Wildlife Units
- 2 Watergate Dams (flood mitigation support)
- 1 x 40' Boom Cache Sea Can
- 1 x 52' Regional OSCAR unit

Remember to check the [Regular Updates](#) on our website homepage to find out what equipment is out of service. Need some equipment for a spill response? Give us a call on our **24/7 Emergency Line: 1-866-541-8888**. For all other equipment inquiries feel free to contact our Operations Manager: Darren.stang@wcsc.ab.ca.

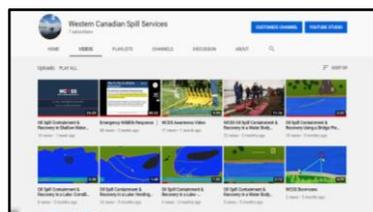
To help responders quickly set up an effective corridor using the equipment available to them, our [Decontamination Unit](#) is scheduled to receive a facelift; here is a sneak peek:

Decontamination of equipment and personnel is an essential component of a successful spill response and should be considered early. This unit will allow responders to transition safely from the Hot Zone to the Cold Zone at spill sites while minimizing their overall impact on the surrounding environment.



TRAINING

We deeply regret that 2020 will not see any more hands-on training events; however, we are using this time to focus our efforts on developing virtual training tools while refining a safe and community-minded approach to all training events in 2021. Be sure to visit our [Training Page](#) frequently for updates, and note that while travel is restricted, there are some [virtual conference and webinar](#) training opportunities currently available.



Our [YouTube](#) page currently hosts several educational short videos, including the recently added [Emergency Wildlife Response Webinar](#) (60 minutes) led by Dan Webster with Eco-Web in Fort St John and developed specifically for our member companies in NE BC, as well as the [Oil Spill Containment and Recover in Shallow Water Environments Video](#) (25 minutes)– developed as a result of popular requests from our member companies.

These are the beginning of several projects that WCSS is looking forward to unveiling to our member companies in the coming months. They will mostly be offered in webinar or video format, to ensure that WCSS may continue to expand the knowledge level among industry as it relates to oil spill containment and recovery equipment and tactics.

Though these initiatives will never replace the hands-on training that our member companies will continue to receive in the future, they will undoubtedly serve as an excellent source of information that may be accessed more readily, by more people within industry. Our plan is to incorporate these resources throughout our future training events to allow for a more blended learning experience – something we anticipate will have become quite familiar to many of our member companies in these past few months.

To submit ideas and recommendations for what you'd like to see, please forward your comments to info@wcoss.ab.ca.

Not sure how to get started? Take our [survey](#) to get some ideas!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Name: Carl Reimer

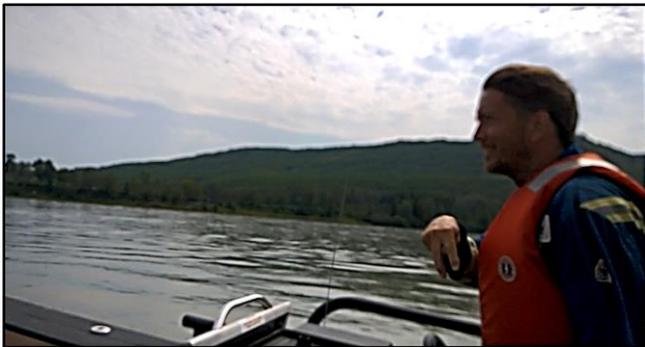
Companies Represented: Spectra Energy, Enbridge, NorthRiver Midstream

Number of Years of Volunteer Service: 10

Positions Held: Steering Committee member, Alternate Chairman, Chairman, Executive Sub-Committee Ad Hoc Representative

Coop Areas Represented: A, C, E, T

Reason for Volunteering: As an environmental professional in the oil and gas industry for nearly 30 years, I was pushed into the spill response side of the business early on. My job as an industry employee was to protect the environment. During that time spills were not uncommon and spill preparedness and response were an important part of environmental protection. I found the spill preparedness and spill response side of the business an aspect of my job that was very important, and I actually enjoyed doing it. Participation in WCSS exercises was always a part of my own spill response training. When a call went out for volunteers for the local steering committee, I decided to see what the organization was all about, so I put my name forward. Since then my continued involvement has seen some increased responsibility, but always with excellent support from the WCSS staff.



Name: Don Brown

Companies Represented: ATAPCO, Bonavista Petroleum, Petro-Canada, Suncor, Nexen, CNRL

Positions Held: Steering Committee, Alternate Chairman, Chairman

Number of Years of Volunteer Service: 19

Coop Areas Represented: C

Reason for Volunteering: I do feel the Co-op is an important part of our community and hopefully the equipment rarely needs to be used.