



# OIL SPILL COOPERATIVE

## Member Newsletter

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## WCSS YEAR IN REVIEW

### Communications

A combination of oil spills and proposed pipeline expansion and development contributed to an increased awareness of oil spill risk and preparedness in 2013. It sent us packing, literally; we testified to the Senate Committee (Energy, Environment and Natural Resources) in February, participated in the B.C. Ministry of Environment's Spill Symposium in March and provided several WCSS awareness sessions in several locations including Toronto. The key messages that we convey are as follows:

- The upstream petroleum industry in our jurisdictional area maintains a "world class" oil spill prevention, preparedness and response program.
- Individual petroleum companies maintain their own robust oil spill preparedness programs and rely on WCSS as a key component of their overall programs.
- WCSS is a non-profit, volunteer based program that has been evolving and improving since 1972; we provide value for our members and are cost effective.
- Although our first priority is to provide services for our membership; we will help others that experience a hydrocarbon spill in surface water if we can.

### Planning

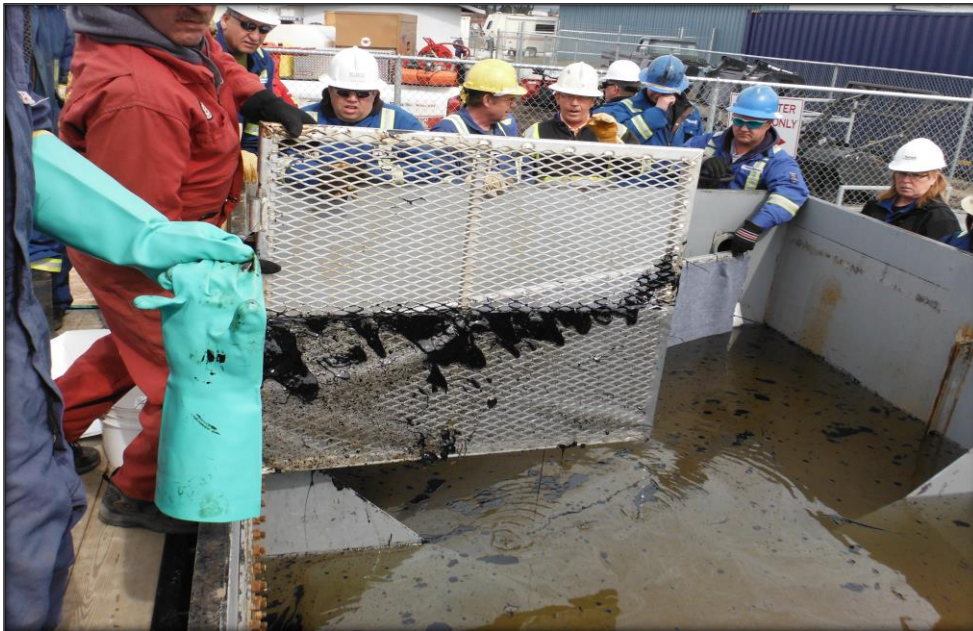
Our strategic planning session was held in June 2013 and focused on the identification of lessons learned from a case study of the 2010 oil spill into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. The objective was to identify where WCSS could improve or enhance our programs from the lessons learned. One of the key learnings was that companies need to plan for worst case spill scenarios and ensure that they have adequate resources; the link to WCSS was to ensure we can provide enough resources to support members during a big event or when there are multiple spills that occur at the same time. Boy were we tested; we were involved in 9 spills in surface water in a 6 week period; we came out ahead and managed to support our members and identified some enhancements that will help us in the future if we are faced with another barrage of incidents.



## Field Improvement

WCSS's field improvement program focused on heavy oil in 2013 and will continue into 2014. Projects that we were involved in in 2013 included material testing at the Area D Oil Spill Cooperative exercise, observing Kinder Morgan's field trials at Gainford, looking at the effects and behavior of dilbit in WCSS's portable test tank in Acheson and holding a heavy oil workshop in Calgary. In addition to this work WCSS has been assessing our skimming capability and evaluating new heavy oil skimmers on the market.

The heavy oil workshop was held in Calgary with spill preparedness and response practitioners that were involved in diluted bitumen (dilbit) and bitumen spills and/or field trials where heavy oil was used as the test medium. The report will be posted on the WCSS website in early 2014. WCSS also acquired a new heavy oil skimmer in 2013.



Area D – Cooperative Exercise “Heavy Oil”



## Equipment

In addition to the new skimmer WCSS purchased we replaced a jet boat in Grande Prairie and the regional spill response unit in Lloydminster. The air curtain incinerator upgrade was also completed in 2013.



Heavy Oil Skimmer



Air Curtain Incinerator

Another highlight of the year was a generous donation of oil spill containment boom and other assorted materials from Canadian Natural Resources Limited; the donated equipment is available to all of our members and is much appreciated; thanks CNRL!

## Training

WCSS held over 40 training events in 2013 that included 21 Cooperative exercises, open registration courses and contract courses for a number of WCSS member companies.



Winter Exercise



Boat Handling - Recertification

## NEW!

We also identified the need for more opportunities for hands-on training for our members which resulted in the identification of a new course series that we will offer in 2014; the series includes:

- **Spill Responder 100** – base-line training that is offered as a self -study course or instructor-led.
- **Spill Responder 200** - application of key elements of the 100 course; includes deployment of equipment in surface water, building inverted weirs, operating skimmers and wildlife hazing equipment.
- **Spill Responder 300** – spill response in winter conditions; ice safety and response to a spill in surface water (ice slotting) with an ice sheet.
- **Spill Responder 400** – oil spill containment and recovery in open water conditions in a river and on a lake.
- **Spill Responder 500** – oil spill incident management

## **Volunteers**

One of the key drivers for WCSS's continual success since 1972 is the dedication and contributions from our many volunteers from the Board of Directors and Executive Sub-Committee to the folks that are involved in each of our 18 oil spill cooperatives.

Although we recognize that member companies that provide volunteers benefit by having more in-house oil spill expertise, we also understand that volunteerism takes time and time is valuable.

At the end of the day we very much need and appreciate the support of member company senior executives to contribute to the success of WCSS by providing individuals that fill volunteer WCSS positions; thank you.

To see a listing of WCSS volunteers please visit our website: <http://www.wcss.ab.ca/contact.asp>

**Cooperative Exercise 2014 Schedule**

| Area           | Date         | Type of Exercise                                     |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| <b>A</b>       | April 23     | Awareness Training                                   |
| <b>C (FSJ)</b> | February 26  | Spill Responder (classroom)                          |
| <b>C (FN)</b>  | September 3  | Awareness Training – Muskeg                          |
| <b>D</b>       | March 25     | Awareness Training                                   |
| <b>D</b>       | September 16 | Awareness Training                                   |
| <b>E</b>       | August 27    | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in a Lake         |
| <b>G</b>       | April 30     | Awareness Training                                   |
| <b>H</b>       | May 28       | Spill Responder (classroom)                          |
| <b>I/J</b>     | March 12     | Spill Responder (classroom)                          |
| <b>M</b>       | September 10 | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in a Small River  |
| <b>N</b>       | June 18      | Awareness Training                                   |
| <b>O</b>       | October 1    | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in a Large River  |
| <b>P</b>       | March 19     | Spill Responder (classroom)                          |
| <b>Q</b>       | May 14       | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in a Lake         |
| <b>S</b>       | July 9       | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in a Small River  |
| <b>T</b>       | September 17 | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in a Small River  |
| <b>U</b>       | June 4       | Awareness Training                                   |
| <b>VR-1</b>    | March 5      | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in Ice Conditions |
| <b>VR-1</b>    | September 24 | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in a Lake         |
| <b>W</b>       | November 19  | Spill Responder (classroom)                          |
| <b>Y</b>       | February 5   | Spill Responder (classroom)                          |
| <b>Y</b>       | October 1    | Oil Spill Containment and Recovery in a Small River  |

Online registration is now available; please visit our Coop Exercise Schedule:

<http://www.wcss.ab.ca/training/coop-schedule.asp>



**Open Registration 2014 Schedule:**

| Course Name                                     | Date                           | Course Location                        |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Spill Responder 100                             | November 18                    | Nisku Enform Training Centre           |
| Spill Responder 200                             | July 16 – 17<br>August 13 – 14 | Nisku Enform Training Centre           |
| Spill Responder 300                             | February 14                    | Nisku Enform Training Centre           |
| Spill Responder 400                             | July 23 – 24<br>August 20 – 21 | Nisku Enform Training Centre + offsite |
| Spill Responder 500                             | November 19 – 20               | Nisku Enform Training Centre           |
| Marine Emergency Duties (MED) A3                | June 9 – 10                    | Nisku Enform Training Centre           |
| Boat Handling Recertification                   | June 9<br>June 10              | Nisku Enform Training Centre + offsite |
| Boat Handling: Oil Spill Containment & Recovery | June 11 – 13                   | Nisku Enform Training Centre + offsite |

WCSS offers in-house contract training upon request. Please contact Shannon Jarrell at (403) 516-8019 or [shannon.jarrell@wcoss.ab.ca](mailto:shannon.jarrell@wcoss.ab.ca) for all training inquiries.

If you are interested in purchasing training aids for your own in-house programs, please contact Leona Boisselle at (403) 516-8160 or [leona.boisselle@wcoss.ab.ca](mailto:leona.boisselle@wcoss.ab.ca). To review WCSS training aids please visit our training page: <http://www.wcoss.ab.ca/training.asp>.

**Note:** To receive WCSS newsletters and occasional notifications please join our mailing list, available on our homepage: <http://www.wcoss.ab.ca/index.asp>.