

Semi Truck Accident on Wapato Way & I5



SHARP Report — Part 1 of 2

[Go to site contamination history](#)

• SHARP first SHARP		v2024.04.29	Ecology Info	
• SHARP rating	Medium		ERTS	719673
• SHARP date	06/25/2025		CSID	17159
• EJFlagged?	✓ – No Override		FSID	10003228
• LD confidence level	low		VCP	none
• Cleanup milestone	CSL listing		UST ID	none
• SHARPster	John Kirkpatrick		LUST ID	none

This section is blank if this is the first SHARP

SHARP Media	Scores	Confidence	Additional Factors	
Indoor air	D4	medium	multiple chemical types	⊗
Groundwater	A1	low	risk to off-site people	⊗
Surface water	B3	medium	climate change impacts	✓
Sediment	D4	low	plant/animal tissue data	⊗
Soil	B1	medium		

Location and land use info

Wapato Way north of I-5, Fife, Pierce County, 98424

Primary parcel 0420071129

Land use transportation

Responsible unit SWRO

Sources reviewed

2023, Initial Investigation, Department of Ecology

2023, Map of Impacted Soil and Water, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

Primary census tract	Associated census tracts
53053940002	

Local demographics comments

A zero was applied to all EJscreen parameters because the EJscreen website was not available at the time of rating.

Source/source area description

A semi truck drove off the overpass and into a stormwater pond. Diesel was released and a sheen developed on the pond.

Soil comments

Confirmation samples did not indicate that site Contaminants of Concern (COCs) persisted in site soils above Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Method A cleanup levels. However, persistent surface water contamination indicated some sort of ongoing release(s) from either soil or groundwater. The Initial Investigation concluded that soil contamination with diesel was suspected, but not confirmed.

Groundwater comments

No groundwater data was available for review. Area groundwater is generally shallow. The Initial Investigation concluded that groundwater contamination with Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) - Diesel as well as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX) was suspected.

Surface water comments

Surface waters were demonstrated to have concentrations of TPH-D above MTCA cleanup levels. The Initial Investigation noted that contamination with BTEX was suspected. The extent of connectivity with the stormwater infrastructure at the site and the tributary to Hylebos adjacent to it is unclear, especially since infrastructure at the site has been undergoing extensive construction. Hylebos creek is known to contain various salmon runs, including coho with a federal "Candidate" status, according to the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Sediment comments

Sampling by DH Environmental appeared to indicate that sediments were below cleanup levels for TPH-D and BTEX. The Initial Investigation did not list any suspected contaminants for site sediments.

Indoor air comments

There are no structures at the site.

Additional factors comments

no comments

Site history

[Go to top](#)

The site is NW of the Fife Curve. GPS coordinates of the spill location are 47.24221, -122.33893. Construction of the Wapato overpass, including stormwater infrastructure, was underway by 2020 and completed in 2021. A pond between Wapato Way and I-5, on the west side of the interstate and south of Wapato Way, was emplaced and is connected to another pond to the north via a ditch and a culvert. This older pond, on the north side of Wapato Way, has been in place since at least 2011. Adjacent to this older pond is a channelized creek carrying outflow from Surprise Lake and into Hylebos Creek. This area to the north including Hylebos Creek has been the subject of various and ongoing modifications and habitat improvement projects by WSDOT throughout the early 2020s.

In December 2022, a semi truck left the road and entered the pond between Wapato Way and I-5. Soil adjacent to Wapato Way was reported to have been impacted by spilled diesel, according to a WSDOT map from January 2023. Both water and soil in the pond area, the overflow ditch that heads E/NE, and the older pond were reported to have been impacted.

DH Environmental Inc. sampled soil, sediment, and surface water at the site in early 2023. 8 out of 10 surface water samples exceeded the screening level for unweathered diesel. Site soils were below MTCA Method A cleanup levels for TPH-D and TPH-O as well as BTEX, likely due to soil cleanup efforts after the spill. The persistence of surface water contamination may indicate that contaminated soil was missed when using visual screening, or that contaminated groundwater is continuing to impact surface water.

Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

No overflow

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SHARP Report — Part 2 of 2

Conceptual site model

06/25/2025

