



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Southwest Region Office

PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775 • 360-407-6300

April 25, 2025

Port Townsend Paper Corporation
Attn: Micheal Clea
100 Mill Road
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Re: Warning for the October 14, 2024, hydraulic oil spill from a forklift to Port Townsend Bay

Ecology Reference: ERTS # 734353

Dear Micheal Clea:

This letter serves as a **warning** for the incident described below. You do not have to pay a penalty.

1. Incident Summary

On October 14, 2024, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) received a report of a spill at the Port Townsend Paper Corporation in Port Townsend, WA. Based on our investigation, we determined that the spill occurred when a loose cap on a forklift's hydraulic hose allowed hydraulic oil to spray from the hose. The hydraulic oil sprayed onto a dock and an estimated 1 gallon was spilled to Port Townsend Bay, waters of the state of Washington.

Ecology appreciates your quick work to deploy boom to contain the spill and hire a contractor to complete the cleanup.

2. Required Notification

Washington State requires immediate notification of an oil or hazardous substance spill to state waters by the person or company responsible for the discharge. Immediate notification means a report within one hour of the spill to **both** the Washington Emergency Management Division and National Response Center of the United States Coast Guard.

Use the following 24-hour, toll-free numbers to make your notifications:

Washington Emergency Management Division
800-258-5990

National Response Center
800-424-8802

3. Other Potential Costs Related to Spills

If you have another spill to waters of the state, Ecology may assess the following:

1. A penalty up to \$10,000 a day for violation of state law or rule. Ecology may assess an additional penalty of up to \$100,000 if we determine the cause of the spill was negligent.
2. An Order for Reimbursement of Expenses to repay the state for its costs to respond, assess, and investigate the incident.
3. A Natural Resource Damage Assessment of up to \$300 per gallon spilled.

4. More Information

- **Revised Code of Washington (RCW)**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/>
- **Chapter 90.56.280 RCW - Duty to notify coast guard and division of emergency management of discharge**
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.56.280>

5. Signature

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at 360-999-3708 or ben.kastine@ecy.wa.gov, or Tami Neilson at 360-701-4379 or tami.neilson@ecy.wa.gov.

Thank you for helping to keep our state waters free from pollutants.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Kastine
Spill Responder
Vancouver Field Office
Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program

Enclosures: FAQs on Enforcement, pub. # 04-08-003
Focus on State Costs for Spills, pub. # 08-08-006

ecc: Dave Byers, Ecology, Spills Program Response Section Manager
Alison Meyers, Ecology, Spills Program Southwest Region Office (SWRO) Response Unit
Supervisor
Tami Neilson, Ecology, Spills Program Enforcement Lead
Eddie Czebator, Ecology, Spills Program Enforcement Support
Emily Toffol, Ecology, Solid Waste Management Program, Industrial Section
USCG, Sector Puget Sound, IMD

file: SWRO Central Files, ERTS # 734353, Jefferson County