

# Reporting oil spills

## Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response



### Do all oil spills need to be reported?

- Yes. **All oil spills to water (even 1 drop)** should immediately be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard and the Washington Emergency Management Division. (RCW 90.56.280)
- The spiller is responsible for reporting the spill. There are consequences for not reporting a spill but there are no penalties for reporting a spill unnecessarily. When in doubt, make the report.

### Who do I call to report a spill?

- Washington Emergency Management Division (24 hours a day) at **1-800-OILS-911**.
- U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at **1-800-424-8802**.

### Can I call my Ecology Regional Office directly to report?

Yes, you have the option of calling the appropriate Ecology regional office environmental reporting line in lieu of calling the Washington Emergency Management Division.

- Northwest: 206-594-0000
- Southwest: 360-407-6300
- Central: 509-575-2490
- Eastern: 509-329-3400



### What happens when I report a spill? Why does it matter?

- When you report a spill, the Washington Emergency Management Division or your Ecology Regional Office will collect very basic spill information. After this report, an Ecology Spill Responder will call you back to gather additional information that will help us determine appropriate response actions.
- All oil spills cause environmental damage. The faster a report is made, the faster we can coordinate with federal, state, and industry partners to ensure a rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated response.
- Prompt notification allows Ecology to partner with you on effective response actions to minimize response costs and limit environmental damage.



Sara Thompson  
Sara.Thompson@ecy.wa.gov  
360-280-5128



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at [ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341