

Focus on: Oil Spill Response Equipment Grants



Fishing vessel Lady Lilian sinking and spill, 2016, Westport, Wash.

More information

Equipment cache grants

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Equipment-cache-grants>

Spill response

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Spills/Spill-preparedness-response/Responding-to-spill-incidents>

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Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-7211 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

New risks in oil transportation require new responses

Washington has seen a dramatic shift in oil transportation, both in types of oil and modes of transport. This change includes volatile North Dakota Bakken crude oil traveling by rail through areas of Washington State that have not previously seen these oil volumes.

These developments in oil transportation have changed the risk picture. Many communities are unprepared and do not have basic resources for responding to oil spills — the nearest equipment may be hours away. Necessary resources include oil containment boom, adsorbents, monitors that measure explosive or toxic gases in the air, firefighting foam, and protective clothing. Additionally, first responders dealing with oil spills need comprehensive training.

Equipment grants address oil transportation risks

In 2015, the Washington Legislature passed the Oil Transportation Safety Act (ESHB 1449). The Act directs Ecology to build preparedness and response capacity statewide by implementing an oil spill and hazardous materials response and firefighting equipment grant program. To prioritize funding to areas with the greatest need, Ecology is working in consultation with first responders, oil spill response cooperatives, representatives from the oil and rail industries, and businesses that receive bulk crude oil.

Funding priority and coordination

Ecology is coordinating grants to maximize first responder and industry usage of existing equipment and resources. Funding priority will be given to areas or regions that are in greatest need of resources for oil spill and hazardous materials response. Ecology is giving priority to applicants who coordinate resources and training with other response partners.

Applicant eligibility

Washington State applicants eligible for response equipment funding include:

- State agencies
- Counties, cities, and towns
- Clean air agencies
- Local health jurisdictions
- Tribal governments
- Other special purpose districts
- Public utility districts
- Irrigation districts
- Fire departments
- Port districts

Eligible project tasks include:

- New response equipment purchase
- Response training
- Enhancements to existing response equipment
- Special projects that support grant program goals

Model for success: Gig Harbor Fire Department

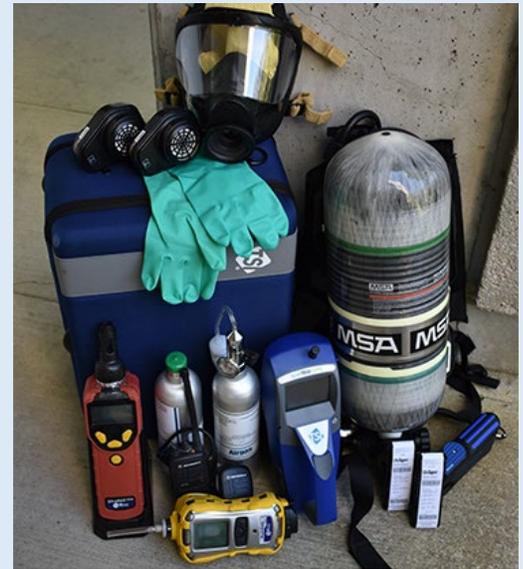
In 2005, the Gig Harbor Fire Department (GHFD) purchased spill response equipment. Ecology provided training and funded a storage trailer. In August that year, the GHFD responded to a massive fire at Harborview Marina, using the response equipment to prevent more than \$1 million in damage to marine and shore life.

The incident led to the first Ecology equipment cache grants. The GHFD received more equipment and training under that grant program, allowing them to respond to another fire and fuel spill in 2007 at the Peninsula Yacht Basin.

Equipment cache maps

- [Spill response equipment in Washington](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlant/storymaps/spills/spills_sm.html?Tab=nt7)
https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlant/storymaps/spills/spills_sm.html?Tab=nt7
- [Grant-funded equipment since 2014](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/eaglmapp/?CustomMap=y&BBox=-13962546,5698654,-13014726,6267345&AL=5&Opacity=0.8&Basemap=esriTopo&EP=5&FP=16)
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/eaglmapp/?CustomMap=y&BBox=-13962546,5698654,-13014726,6267345&AL=5&Opacity=0.8&Basemap=esriTopo&EP=5&FP=16>

Examples of equipment and deployment



Examples of equipment eligible under the grant program.



Tug Chickamauga sinking and diesel spill, Bainbridge Island, 2013.



Boom and sorbent material deployment from trailer, Shelter Bay Marina Fire, 2014, La Conner.