

## Focus on: Cost of Spills



*The Sulphur Creek spill in Sunnyside, Washington (March 2015) incurred \$1.3 million in response costs.*

### Contact

Response Section Manager  
360-790-6899

Spills Enforcement Coordinator  
360-701-4379

Spill Prevention, Preparedness,  
and Response Program  
[ecology.wa.gov/SpillsProgram](https://ecology.wa.gov/SpillsProgram)

### Accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 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.

If you spill oil or hazardous substances into state waters, you could be responsible for the following costs.

### Order for Reimbursement of Expenses (ORE)

These are the state's necessary expenses to respond, assess, and investigate the incident ([RCW 90.56.360](https://leg.wa.gov/RCW/2017/000/090/056/0360)). They may include:

- Investigating the spill source
- Investigating the extent of environmental damage
- Cleanup actions
- Damage assessment studies
- Enforcement actions
- Wildlife recovery and rehabilitation

Costs included are staff time, contractor expenses, sampling costs, disposal expenses, and travel costs.

### Notice of Penalty (NOP)

An NOP for violation of the state's law or rule ([RCW 90.48.140](https://leg.wa.gov/RCW/2017/000/090/048/140)) may be issued for:

- Any violation of law or rule
- Spill of oil or hazardous substances into state waters
- Negligent, reckless, or intentional oil spill
- Failure to notify when a spill occurs

### Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

NRDA is not a penalty. It is a compensation for injury to natural, cultural, and publically owned resources. NRDA funds can be used for restoration or enhancement projects or studies. NRDA funds cannot be used for response costs or employee salaries or benefits.

### Types of costs and options

On the left are the types of costs you could incur if you spill. On the right are the options you have for each type of cost.

