Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program

Local Emergency Planning Committee Resources

The Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program (Spills Program) can provide Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) with unique resources, information, and training opportunities from each section within our program.

Prevention

Figure 1. Vessel fueling in Elliott Bay.

The Prevention Section works towards achieving a goal of zero spills. Prevention activities include oil transfer inspections, facility inspections, vessel substanial risk screenings and inspections, and investigations. The section also manages voluntary programs for tank vessels. Prevention reviews and approves plans, manuals, and programs for regulated facilities. We can assist LEPCs with:

- Providing information about local vessel traffic.
- Sharing information about transfers and oil movement in the local area.
- Presentations on vessel incidents and salvage operations.

Preparedness

Figure 2. A deployment drill to test oil spill response equipment in Wenatchee.

The Preparedness Section works with oil-handling operations to review and approve their oil spill contingency plans and test those plans through oil spill exercises. The section reviews and approves primary response contractor, spill management team, and wildlife response service provider applications. We support regional and area contingency planning efforts and coordinate the development and update of geographic response plans (GRPs). We can assist LEPCs with:

- Information regarding the regional and area oil spill contingency plans, and how to be involved through task forces and other workgroups.
- Guidance for how to use GRPs and participate in GRP updates.
- How to participate in industry oil spill exercises in the area.

Response

Figure 3. Responding to an oil tanker fire along the Columbia River.

The Response Section coordinates oil spill and hazardous material response and restoration efforts by working with all state agencies and local emergency response personnel on incidents that threaten or impact the environment, including state waters, and human health and safety. We can assist LEPCs with:

- Reporting on response trends within each LEPC jurisdiction or case studies from responses in the state.
- Sharing Ecology's response capabilities during an incident.
- Providing information on Ecology's Equipment Grant Program.
- Providing information on restoration sites and progress.
- Providing a responder to attend each LEPC meeting to act as an Ecology Spills Program liaison.

Statewide Resources

Figure 4. Incident Command Post during a drill exercise.

The Statewide Resources section supports the Spills Program through a variety of services, and can provide LEPCs with:

- Information regarding upcoming training opportunities.
- How to participate in relevant rulemakings.
- Presentations regarding recent enforcement actions.
- How to utilize our oil spills maps and layers.
- Access to the Advance Notice of Oil Transfer (ANT) system and associated quarterly reports.
- Updates on current research and analysis projects and opportunities for input on future project ideas.

Want to learn more? Contact us!

We are working to increase our outreach and engagement with LEPCs, and have assigned at least one Spills Program responder representative to each active LEPC. To learn who your assigned responder(s) is(are), please contact Angela Deardorff-Zeigenfuse at angela.zeigenfuse@ecy.wa.gov.

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