



TRANSMOUNTAIN

The RESPONDER

Quarterly Newsletter for Emergency Responders

Spring 2020

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A PIPELINE EMERGENCY

Being prepared and knowing how to recognize a pipeline emergency is important.

Pipeline emergency warning signs include:

- strong petroleum odour (gasoline or diesel) or sulphur (rotten eggs);
- unusual sounds;
- signs of dead or discoloured vegetation;
- pools of liquid in an otherwise dry pipeline right-of-way; or
- water with an oil or rainbow sheen.

If you notice any of the warning signs of a pipeline emergency:

- leave the area immediately on foot in an upwind direction;
- eliminate possible ignition sources such as cigarettes, cell phones or keyless door entry fobs; and
- notify the Trans Mountain 24-hour Emergency Line: 1.888.876.6711

If your organization would like to learn more about pipeline safety and response, email Emergency_Management@transmountain.com to book a live, virtual presentation with our team.



KAMLOOPS WINTER FULL-SCALE EXERCISE



In February, Trans Mountain completed a winter-based full-scale emergency response exercise in Kamloops, British Columbia. This exercise was conducted to demonstrate our capabilities in responding to pipeline emergencies in winter conditions.

This exercise also helped satisfy pre-operations exercise requirements associated with the Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP).

During the exercise, crews were tasked with completing a safe and effective response to a full-bore pipeline rupture impacting a frozen waterbody. Additional objectives included creating a fully functional Incident Command Post (ICP) with staffing appropriate for the scenario, establishing a Joint Information Centre and conducting a simulated press briefing with Unified Command members. They also had to develop incident specific support plans for Waste Management, Sampling, Historical/Cultural Resource Protection and Wildlife Management.

The ICP was established at a local Kamloops hotel while a field deployment focusing on specialized winter response equipment took place at Inks Lake, south of Kamloops. As part of the field deployment, a small section of the lake was exposed using ice saws. In the event of an actual spill, this uncovered section of lake would allow released oil to surface, so it could be skimmed and transferred into temporary containment.

A significant portion of the on-ice response focused on responder safety. Deploying

equipment onto a frozen waterbody can be hazardous, so a number of safety precautions were taken to mitigate this concern. For example, prior to deploying equipment, responders calculated the weight bearing capacity of the ice to ensure it would hold the combined weight of the equipment and the response team. Other responders were assigned to cutting out ice blocks while anchored via harnesses and rope to fellow shoreline responders. An ice rescue team was on standby with specialized equipment. Thankfully this resource was not required, and the safety precautions taken as part of the exercise ensured all participants remained safe.

The exercise included observation and participation from 225 attendees representing more than 25 agencies and communities. During the post exercise debrief, many participants noted that the collaboration and information shared during the day played a key role in the success of this exercise.

We regularly invite agencies and local Indigenous communities to response exercises to meet and learn from one another. Developing these partnerships enhances response effectiveness in the unlikely event of a real emergency. Trans Mountain is required to have an Emergency Management Program that anticipates, prevents, manages and mitigates conditions during the unlikely event of an emergency. Each year, we conduct more than 20 emergency response exercises, equipment deployment drills and training sessions. This exercise was a great way to kick off the 2020 season.

In case of a pipeline emergency or to report odours, call 24 hours: 1.888.876.6711

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS (EM4)

Trans Mountain understands that Emergency Management is of paramount importance for all pipeline stakeholders including first responders and local Indigenous communities alike.

As a result of ongoing consultation and engagement with stakeholders, numerous enhancements have been made to our Emergency Management (EM) Program to date, all of which have strengthened our ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergency situations.

Prior to the Trans Mountain Expansion Project being paused temporarily in 2018, we conducted workshops in three of our four operating districts: Alberta, North Thompson, and Kamloops. Most recently, members of the Emergency Management Department were able to host workshops in our one remaining district, Sumas. Workshop sessions were conducted in early March in the cities of Chilliwack, Abbotsford and Burnaby, BC. These sessions were attended by local first responders, Indigenous communities, and by various municipal, provincial and federal government representatives.

Hosting open house sessions allowed attendees to converse on a range of emergency management topics with various Trans Mountain personnel and subject matter experts. Workshop attendees discussed topics such as different types of emergency response equipment, our emergency response plans which include Fire Pre-Plans for Terminals and Tank Farms and Geographic Response Plans for detailed spill response procedures. Another area of interest was our Training and Exercise Program, including where, when and how often we train our responders. Throughout these workshops, attendees were encouraged to ask questions and provide input for future Emergency Management Program enhancements.

Feedback received from event attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Many noted their appreciation for the opportunity to connect. Despite the conclusion of this consultation phase, we remain open to feedback from responders, Indigenous communities and various levels of government to ensure that your input is given proper consideration into ongoing enhancement of the EM Program.

If you would like to provide input or discuss the EM Program, please contact us at Emergency_Management@transmountain.com



TRANS MOUNTAIN'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

As with most organizations, Trans Mountain has been dedicating a significant amount of time and resources to manage the health and safety of our workforce and operations, in the communities where we live and work.

Throughout this pandemic our commitment to operating our pipeline in a safe and reliable manner has not changed, and we will continue to operate so long as we can ensure the health and safety of our workforce, their families and our communities.

In mid-March we successfully transitioned the vast majority of our head office and regional staff to work from home and we have implemented a new mandatory fit-for-duty declaration process for field-based operations. We and our construction contractors are following the advice from government and health agencies and we continuously re-evaluate all mitigative and protective actions that have been implemented in order to prevent virus transmission.

Additional actions the company has taken to ensure worker health and safety include: suspending all non-essential travel, implementing restricted access measures at our control centres, and adhering to recommendations provided by health authorities. This includes physical distancing practices and having only essential personnel at our worksites.

In light of the COVID-19 situation, our Emergency Management Department continues to plan and conduct emergency response exercises while making necessary modifications to ensure the health and safety of all stakeholders. While our ability to host large numbers of observers at these events has been temporarily suspended, we look forward to re-establishing the exercise observer programs once circumstances surrounding COVID-19 have improved.

CONTACT US:

We welcome and encourage your feedback about the Responder newsletter:



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