



TRANSMOUNTAIN

The RESP@NDER

Quarterly Newsletter for Emergency Responders

Winter 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.



YEAR IN REVIEW



As we reflect on 2020, we want to thank you for your ongoing support and interest in our safety and emergency preparedness programs during the ongoing pandemic. Over the course of 2020, Trans Mountain safely completed 34 training and exercise events and delivered 17 virtual Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) presentations to First Responders in communities along our pipeline. By holding regular exercises and trainings, Trans Mountain validated its emergency plans and confirmed that our personnel are prepared to safely and effectively respond in the event of an incident.

In February 2020, Trans Mountain completed a full-scale exercise involving over 225 participants and observers from more than 25 agencies and communities. Held in Kamloops, BC, this exercise demonstrated our ability to respond to pipeline emergencies under winter conditions and included establishment of an Incident Command Post (ICP) and an deployment of response equipment onto a frozen waterbody. The exercise provided a great opportunity for collaboration and learning with our response partners. It also ended up being one of the last times we would be able to hold a large event with an external audience prior to COVID-19.

Once health authorities began to introduce COVID-19 related recommendations, guidelines, and orders in March 2020, we modified our approach to exercises to

better ensure the health and safety of our staff, their families, and the communities in which we operate. We substituted our planned spring and summer river deployment drills for smaller land and creek exercises, which were held within the fence line of our own facilities. This switch ensured that responders still received important hands-on equipment training while also allowing for greater control over COVID-19 health and safety protection measures.

Another change for Emergency Management in 2020 was adopting a new online format for our Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) presentations. CAER presentations are used to connect Trans Mountain Emergency Management staff with local first responders providing an opportunity for detailed discussions related to pipeline emergencies. As part of these presentations participants walk through a basic emergency scenario to better understand how Trans Mountain and first responders collaborate in the event of a release. What we found was that even though COVID-19 forced presentations into a virtual environment, interest for them remained strong. Trans Mountain was able to conduct 17 separate CAER presentations throughout the year primarily within our Alberta and North Thompson Districts. Moving into 2021 we intend to carry forward with our virtual CAER presentations. If your department or agency has interest then please let us know by sending an email to Emergency_Management@transmountain.com.

Despite the challenges that arose in 2020, our commitment to Emergency Preparedness remained steadfast. As we head into 2021, we will continue to deliver our exercises and training requirements to ensure we remain in a constant state of response readiness.

In case of a pipeline emergency or to report odours, call our 24-hour line: 1.888.876.6711

AQUAGUARD SKIMMER ACQUISITION

Trans Mountain recently completed the purchase of six new AquaGuard skimmers to bolster the company's existing spill response and recovery capacity.

The new skimmers will replace the existing AquaGuard skimmers in Trans Mountain's Oil Spill Containment and Recovery (OSCAR) trailers. The new skimmers have several improvements over the previous models and are easily integrated into Trans Mountain's existing OSCARS setup.

The AquaGuard RBS Triton 35 Skimmer model was selected because of our response team's familiarity with its operation and its compatibility with existing recovery modules. These skimmers

are especially effective in removing oil products from water, whether the product has combined viscosities (heavy and light) or a singular viscosity. This recovery flexibility is significant for Trans Mountain as both heavy and light oil products are moved via Trans Mountain's pipeline.

Each skimmer comes equipped with ASTM capable connectors that allow for easy connection with Trans Mountain's spill containment boom. In addition, the front trough of each skimmer can be removed for better operation within high wave and windy conditions.

The Canadian Coast Guard and Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) have recently purchased RBS skimmer models as well. This allows Trans Mountain increased

interoperability with its response partners in the event of a release into the Lower Fraser River or Burrard Inlet, as well as any future spill response exercises and training events. The skimmers will debut at Trans Mountain's upcoming ice response exercises in February 2021 and will be featured heavily throughout the remainder of Trans Mountain's spill response deployment exercises in 2021.



EMERGENCY DRILLS GO VIRTUAL IN PUGET SOUND



In December 2020, three emergency response drills were conducted over consecutive days at Trans Mountain's Laurel Station near Bellingham, WA. A tabletop drill and two equipment deployments affirmed local response capabilities for both land and water-based oil spill scenarios. While District crews were on-site to deploy equipment and assume incident command responsibilities, participants from north of the border supported response efforts using Microsoft Teams (Teams). Our regulator, the Washington State Department of Ecology, was even able to attend and virtually observed and evaluate these events.

The tabletop drill was broadcast from the command post at Laurel Station using both laptops and a large screen TV. This approach allowed for continuous live feed communication and real-time situational awareness for local staff and remote responders alike.



For the equipment drill, field responders were tasked with creating an inverted weir to demonstrate containment of released product within a flooded swale. Product, or in this case water, would build up on the upstream side of the weir and when enough of a reservoir was established, a portable skimmer was deployed for simulated recovery.

The entire deployment was captured using a portable camera connected to Microsoft Teams allowing for off site observation of the deployed response strategies.

As COVID-19 and accompanying restrictions continue, Teams and other virtual tools will play a major role in our emergency response efforts going forward, during drills or a real-life event.

CONTACT US:

We welcome and encourage your feedback about the Responder newsletter:



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☎ 1.866.514.6700

🌐 transmountain.com

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