

Mt Robson Fuel Tanker Incident

The Incident

On March 2, 2016 at approximately 0530, a semi fuel tanker was involved in a motor vehicle incident approximately 3 kilometres east of the Mt Robson Provincial Park visitor center on Highway 16. The fuel tanker was carrying approximately 49,850 litres of fuel of which it was estimated less than 25,000 litres of clear diesel product was released to the road rock side ditch.



Initial Response

Upon notification BC Ministry of Environment

dispatched Environmental Emergency staff along with BC Parks staff to the incident. Emergency response contractors and environmental consultants were also dispatched to the scene. On scene responders noted that the majority of the fuel appeared to have been captured in the fractured road rock ditch with some product migrating down the ditch through a highway road culvert and discharging on the

down side embankment. The Upper Fraser River is immediately down slope of the culvert and although there was a rainbow colored sheen observed on the portion of the river adjacent at time of incident, it remains unknown at this time how much product may have entered the river.

Emergency response and salvage operations commenced upon arrival of responding contractors and agency representatives. Absorbent boom was deployed below the culvert outlet along the river and remaining fuel in the tanker was pumped off and removed from site. Downstream reconnaissance and water quality sampling was undertaken including using an aerial drone to survey the river course.



Environmental Impact Assessment

Daily surveillance along with water quality sampling is being undertaken. Impacts to the water course appear to be confined to impact

site at this time. A remediation plan is currently being put together along with a longer term monitoring plan and environmental impact assessment which will include water quality and aquatic (fish and aquatic life) impact assessment.

