

B.C.'s Spill Response Process

- The Province of B.C. assesses each spill situation individually to determine when the emergency has passed.
- There are generally three phases associated with a spill:
 - 1) The emergency response phase
 - 2) The remediation phase
 - 3) The monitoring phase.
- The emergency response phase begins immediately following the spill. The person who had control of the substance prior to the spill is responsible for immediately reporting the spill to the Province of B.C. and to the federal government. They are also required to initiate an emergency response to stop and contain the spill.
- Generally speaking, an incident moves from the emergency response phase to the remediation phase once a number of conditions have been met:
 - The source of the spill has been stopped
 - The spill is largely contained
 - Emergency response officers have assessed the area
 - Any appropriate health and safety precautions are in place
- It is important to note that different areas impacted by a spill can be in different phases at the same time. For example, one area may still be in the emergency response phase while another area has already moved into remediation.
- The transition between phases happens to make sure the Province has the right technical experts working on the response, and to free up emergency responders to respond to other incidents.
- During the remediation phase, oversight of the spill response transitions from emergency responders to local Ministry of Environment staff who are trained and experienced in environmental impact assessment and waste management.
- Lemon Creek is currently in the remediation phase.

- The remediation phase of the Lemon Creek spill includes requirements for Executive Flight Centre to do the following:
 - Provide a daily report outlining cleanup activities to the Ministry of Environment, Interior Health Authority, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
 - Develop an environmental impact monitoring and assessment report by the end of August.
 - Develop a detailed spill response report, outlining all actions taken to address the spill, due by September 20.
 - Share monitoring data results in a timely manner with the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and IHA.
 - Follow approved treatment approach for flushing water.

- The transition to the monitoring phase is generally guided by the following:
 - Achievement of desired clean-up endpoints, and
 - Development and implementation of a monitoring plan.

- Specific clean-up endpoints are determined for each spill. The end points may take into consideration the following:
 - Effectiveness of treatment technologies
 - Characteristics of the spilled material
 - Net environmental benefit
 - Natural attenuation.

- Monitoring of water, air and the ground is conducted to assess the environmental impact of the spill and to assess the recovery of the environment.

- The Monitoring phase is concluded when the spill impacted area has recovered to an acceptable environmental endpoint. This endpoint is determined by the Ministry of Environment.

- End points have now been determined for Lemon Creek. These end points can be found in the Lemon Creek: Shoreline treatment endpoints document.