

EX CONSTANCE BANK SPILL RESPONSE

MEDIA STATEMENT

10:38 a.m.

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

Victoria, B.C. – The spill response continues following the marine spill incident that took place on Feb. 3, 2025.

A Unified Command has been established to coordinate all aspects of the response. The Unified Command includes the Canadian Coast Guard, Teekay Tankers Ltd., Capital Regional District, City of Victoria, Sc'ianew First Nation, Tseycum First Nation, Xwsepsum Nation and BC Ministry of Environment.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Coast Guard and WCMRC vessels are conducting skimming operations on an ongoing basis with protection booming, skimming vessels and current buster operations to manage and contain the spill.

Overnight crews recovered an additional 2,140 tonnes of oily waste. Rapid shoreline assessment teams have reported a total of 4.3km of impacted shorelines, including Trial Island and Discovery Island, as well as publicly accessible areas at McNeil Bay, Oak Bay and Clover Point. Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) crews are being deployed to prioritized areas.

We have deployed seven Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) in the Greater Victoria area: in Witty's Lagoon, Esquimalt Lagoon, William's Head, Esquimalt Harbour, Albert Head Lagoon, Twin Islands and Victoria Harbour. Additional GRS are planned for deployment and areas are continually being assessed for GRS deployment by the Environmental Unit. Geographic Response Strategies are site-specific response plans tailored to protect sensitive areas threatened by an oil spill. More information on GRS is available [here](#).

A temporary restricted air space from Navigation Canada remains in effect for the impacted area. This includes recreational drones (UAVs). An Exclusion Zone has been set up in the Greater Victoria area surrounding the response area which is closed to marine travel. The Coast Guard is working with all commercial and recreational users to ensure boats are diverted from the closed areas. More information on the Exclusion Zone is available on the Coast Guard website.

Wildlife rehabilitation units have been engaged to support the response. The public is advised to avoid contact with oiled wildlife but are encouraged to report any oiled wildlife sightings to the 24-hour reporting line at 1-888-801-5860.

SAFETY & VOLUNTEER CLEANUP

The response is fully staffed at this time and well-resourced to manage the impact of the spill. We do not require additional support from the community at this time. We ask the community to continue to keep away from impacted areas and report all oiled shoreline and impacted wildlife to our 24-hour reporting line at 1-888-801-5860.

Please do not attempt to clean up the oil yourself. Oil is a hazardous material and requires proper disposal by professionals. If beaches have been impacted by oil, Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique teams are being deployed to assess the impact and are recommending appropriate cleanup tactics.

Safety is the primary concern for both first responders and the public. Security and safety plans are continually being developed and implemented. The public is requested to avoid contact with water and contaminated beaches in the Greater Victoria area.

To ensure the continued safety of responders and the public, air quality monitoring is ongoing and remains within an acceptable range in accordance with Island Health standards. If the public detects fumes, they are recommended to avoid the area and report the odour to the 24-hour public call-in line at 1-888-801-5860. Members of the public are asked to call 9-1-1 **only** if they have an emergency.

A claims web portal for private and commercial claims has been established by Teekay. Please visit www.teekay.com/constancebank for more information.

Additional updates will be provided on an ongoing basis.

Visit: www.spillresponsebc.ca

CONTACTS

Public Information Officer, Unified Command
250-555-5555