

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Toppenish Creek Truck Spill - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region X

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
POLREP 1, Initial and Final POLREP  
Toppenish Creek Truck Spill  
  
Toppenish, WA  
Latitude: 46.3144444 Longitude: -120.3269444

**To:** Beth Sheldrake, EPA Region 10  
Stephanie Wenning, EPA Region 10  
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Anthony Barber, EPA Region 10 (POLREP List)  
Steven Natale, USCG National Pollution Funds Center

**From:** Jeffrey Fowlow, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 8/12/2021

**Reporting Period:** August 11 to XX, 2021

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	Z0GA	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	OPA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	8/11/2021	<b>Start Date:</b>	8/11/2021
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>	E21004	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Lamprey breeding habitat?  
National Wildlife Reserve?

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

An estimated maximum of 150-160 gallons of diesel fuel was released from the fuel tanks into Toppenish Creek and onto creek bank soils following the crash. The body of the trailer, lying on its side in the creek, acted as a dam keeping the released fuel from spreading downstream. Sheen and mousse were observed on the water between the creek bank adjacent to Highway 97 and the overturned trailer. Absorbent pads had been deployed in this area and absorbent boom had been placed to isolate the impacted water. Absorbent pads and boom had also been deployed downstream of the wreckage. Visual inspection of the creek bank and vegetation did not reveal substantial contamination downstream of the overturned trailer.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

EPA arrived on scene on Wednesday morning, August 11. By the time of EPA arrival, Yakama Tribal responders had already deployed absorbent pads and boom in multiple locations around the truck and further downstream. Tribal responders also had a tapped into the fuel tanks and removed 140 gallons of diesel.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Response crews began by removing uncontaminated solid waste, comprised of vehicle and trailer parts and cargo that had been strewn in an approximately 75-foot diameter area of stream bank. Approximately 60 cubic yards of material was removed by hand and excavator. Care was taken by the crews to minimize damage to the natural soil and vegetation to the extent possible.

After the majority of the solid waste was removed, the wrecked truck and trailer were removed. In both cases, two tow trucks and an excavator were required to bring the vehicles up from the stream bank to the road side. The vehicle hulks were loaded onto flat bed trailers and removed from the site.

Following removal of the vehicles, response crews deployed a skiff and removed larger floating debris from the creek and removed and replaced spent absorbent boom and pads. With the trailer removed, the impacted area of the creek was reduced to where the truck had come to rest and the fuel tanks had released their contents.

Response crews used an excavator to remove contaminated soil from a 15-foot section of the left stream bank. While excavating, it became apparent that some of the diesel had been driven into the stream bank and stream sediments during the impact of the crash and during removal of the truck and trailer. Approximately 24 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated and sent off site for disposal. Continued excavation of sediments was likely to cause additional release of diesel into the creek and, therefore, excavation was discontinued until additional materials could be obtained to control any potential release.

**2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
Contaminated soil	Soil	24 CY			X
Uncontaminated debris	Solid waste	60 CY			X
Truck and trailer	Scrap metal/solid waste				X

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Response activities will resume Friday, August 13. There are three known areas of impact:

1. Contaminated soil and sediment on the left bank of Toppenish Creek.
2. An isolated area of creek bank adjacent to the road ballast of 97.
3. Floating petroleum mousse, sheen, and debris within the boomed area of the creek.

To address contaminated soil and sediment of the left bank, crews will construct a coffer dam to isolate the area from the creek. After the dam is completed, a vacuum truck will be used to dewater the area behind the dam. An excavator and hand shoveling will then be used to remove the soil and sediment.

There are an unknown number of previously existing sandbags along the ballast supporting Highway 97. These sandbags absorbed some of the diesel from the water and continue to release a sheen. These sandbags will be removed by hand or by using an excavator.

The floating petroleum mousse, sheen, and other small debris will be removed using a vacuum truck to the extent possible. New boom and absorbent pads will be deployed as necessary.

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

A plan for replenishing the areas where soil was removed, re-stabilizing the creek bank, and re-vegetating the crash site will be developed.

**2.2.2 Issues**

Response activities were suspended when traffic control services were not available for Thursday, August 12. Response activities will re-commence Friday, August 13.

**2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

**2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

**2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

Elizabeth Sanchez

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

Washington Department of Ecology?

Others?

**4. Personnel On Site**

EPA - 1  
Yakama Tribe - 4  
Graymar - 4? I will try to resolve this tomorrow.  
Tow Company? - 8?

**5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

**6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.