



Spill Update: Joint Information Center for Whitley Fuel Fire and Petroleum Spill Standing Down

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 27, 2007
1 p.m. /Release # 6

For information about specific issues, please call:

Spokane Regional Health District: Cathy Cochrane, 509-324-1689

City of Spokane: Marlene Feist, 509-625-6740

Spokane Fire Department: Brian Schaeffer, 509-625-7002

Department of Ecology: Jani Gilbert, 509-990-9177

Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/incidents/whitleyfire/whitleyfire.html>

***Correction:** Press release #4 reported that a wastewater retention pond at the Whitley Fuel site had been excavated. It was actually cleaned with a vacuum truck. The retention pond will be covered if rain is predicted.*

Spill Status Report as of 1 p.m.

Date of spill: July 23, 2007

Responsible Party: Whitley Fuel LLC

Location: Whitley Fuel, 2733 N. Pittsburg Road, Spokane

Type of petroleum products: mixed (includes motor oil, diesel fuel, racing fuel, hydraulic and transmission fluid, lubricating oil, etc.)

Amount spilled: Unknown

Cause or source of the spill: Fire (suspected arson; investigation continuing)

Organizations involved: Washington state departments of Ecology and Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, City of Spokane Water Department, Spokane Regional Health District, Whitley Fuel LLC, and private environmental cleanup contractors.

Update

Whitley Fuel Site

- A cleanup plan for the site has been developed and approved.
- Crews will be removing debris at the site today and through the weekend.

- The Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will monitor cleanup activities at the site.

Human exposure and health issues

- People living in the vicinity of the Whitley Fuel fire are asked to move their vehicles if there are petroleum stains around the curbs in their area. This will allow city street maintenance crews to clean up residual runoff.
- The current risk to public health from petroleum and cleanup products at the site of the Whitley Fuels fire appears to be low. The Spokane Regional Health District is still monitoring conditions.
- The current risk to public health from petroleum and cleanup products entering the city's stormwater system and the Spokane River also appears to be low.
- The regional health district recommends that people avoid the area around the stormwater outfall at T.J. Meenach Bridge until further notice.

Stormwater drain cleanup

- The city of Spokane Wastewater Management Department has found what appear to be small amounts of oil residue during "hydro-cleaning" of the stormwater system.
- The amount, concentration and type of petroleum found in the storm drains are under investigation.
- The wastewater management department continues to request that residents help protect the Spokane River by avoiding major water use, such as power-washing equipment, washing cars in their yards, and excessive watering, particularly if the water will flow into storm drains in the area of Mission Avenue to Francis Avenue in North Spokane.

Spokane River activities

- No recoverable oil has been found in the Spokane River. However, water samples were taken at several locations yesterday.
- Lab tests are being conducted to determine whether or not any petroleum was present in the samples as well as possible concentration levels.

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