



Tanker accident impacts Little Spokane River

Information for residents near the spill area

What happened

On Wednesday, June 11, 2025, a privately owned bridge failed under the weight of a large spray truck containing diluted emulsified asphalt mixture for a gravel road treatment. The bridge failure caused the truck to overturn and enter the Little Spokane River.

Initial estimates indicated that 2,100 gallons of diluted emulsified asphalt mixture was released into the water near the intersection of E Eloika Road and N Milan Elk Road in Chattaroy, WA. After further assessment, it is now believed that approximately 300 gallons of asphalt product entered the water, as the mixture also contained water.

How we're responding

The Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are actively responding to the incident. A contracted cleanup team is on site to contain and mitigate environmental impacts.

Containment booms have been deployed in several locations along the affected stretch of the river to isolate the spill. Sorbent materials are also being used to capture surface sheen and recover product from the water.

What to expect

Ecology, EPA, and the cleanup contractor will be present along the spill site to continue containment and recovery efforts. Community members may notice increased traffic, including

trucks and heavy equipment associated with the cleanup operation.

Private wells

At this time, there is no indication that private wells have been affected by the spill.

Recommendations

To protect yourself and others during this response we recommend the following guidance:

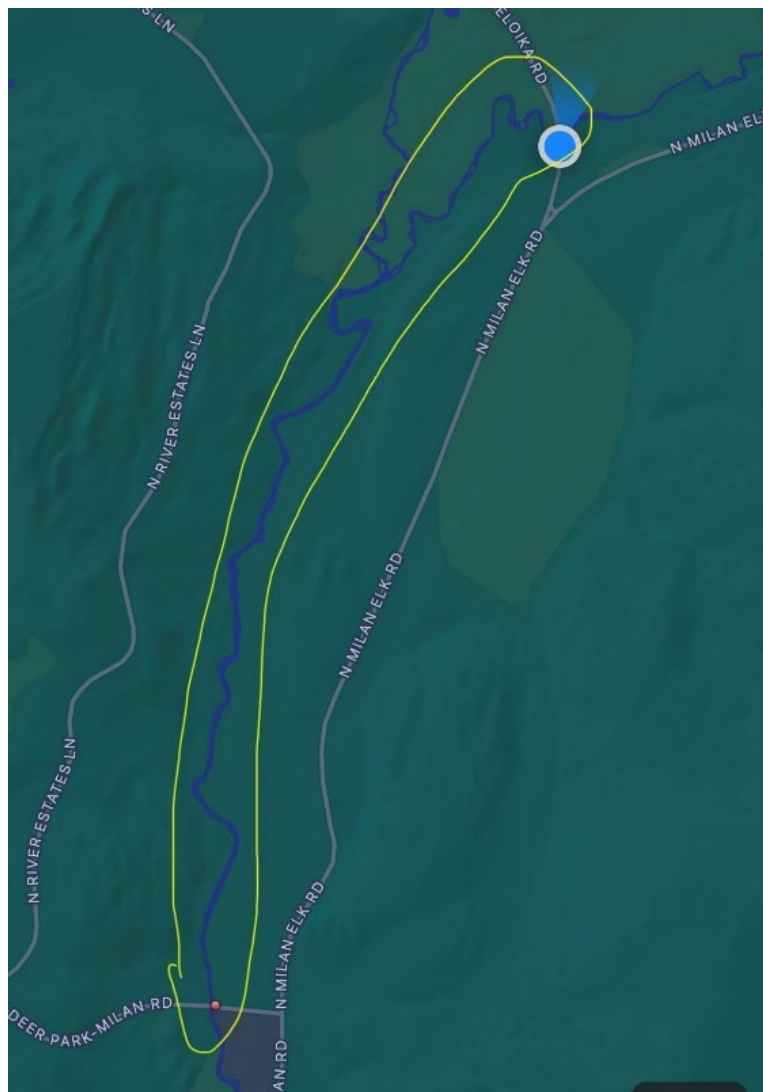
- Do not enter or fish from the impacted area.
- Do not enter or fish from areas where an oil sheen is observed.
- Do not eat fish that is oiled or smells oily.
- Do not touch or eat dead fish.

Report sheening or wildlife impacts

At this time, we have not found impacts to wildlife in the area. However, if you observe sheening on the water, injured wildlife, or any unusual conditions along the river, please report them immediately to the Washington Department of Ecology's Spill Response Program at 1-800-OILS 911 (1-800-645-7911).



Containment boom is used to isolate the spill along the Little Spokane River.



Map of the impacted area.

For updated information:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/LittleSpokaneRiver>