



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 a 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 by the EPA, Ecology, and the responsible party, it is now believed that approximately 250 gallons of asphalt product and 60 gallons of diesel entered the water. The reduced volume is primarily due to the product being heavily diluted with water.

How we're responding

The Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been actively responding to the incident. A contracted cleanup team was hired to contain and mitigate environmental impacts.

Containment boom was deployed in several locations along the affected stretch of the river to isolate the spill. Sorbent materials were used to capture surface sheen and recover product from the water. To date, approximately 95 gallons of the spilled asphalt and diesel have been recovered.

What to expect

During the emergency phase of a spill response, Ecology's Spills Program focuses on actionable endpoints to measure when a cleanup is complete.

This includes checking for visible sheen, and lab results showing the presence or absence of oil, oiled vegetation, or impacted wildlife.

Once the emergency phase is over, the response site transitions to Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program (TCP). TCP takes a more detailed, science-based approach to see if the area meets Washington's rigorous environmental cleanup standards, as outline in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). They test for contamination left behind that may pose a threat to people, animals or the environment.

If testing shows that contamination is above state standards, Ecology will work with state and federal partners to create a cleanup plan. The goal is to reduce harm to the environment and address the known risks from the pollution. This next phase involves shoreline permits and opportunities for public input.

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 where oil sheen is observed.
- Do not eat fish that is oiled or smells of petroleum products or chemicals.
- 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 oiled wildlife, please report it to 1-800-22-BIRDS.

If you see sheen on the water, especially rainbow sheen or tar balls, please report it to the Washington Department of Ecology's Spill Response Program at 1-800-OILS 911 (1-800-645-7911).

For updated information:

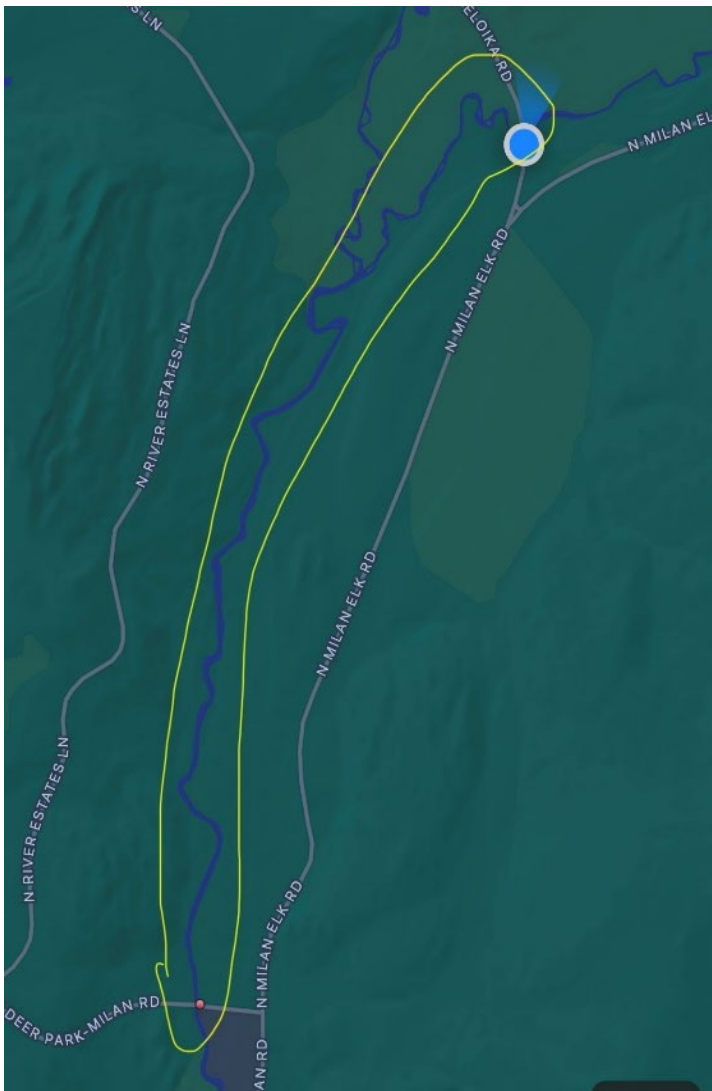
<https://ecology.wa.gov/LittleSpokaneRiver>

For future updates on this incident, see Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program's incident page:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17277>

Questions or Concerns:

Liaison@ecy.wa.gov



Map of the impacted area.