



For immediate release – August 8, 2025
Contact: Joint Information Center (360) 515-6868

Emergency response ends, but restoration and monitoring continue at Indian Creek spill site

PORT ANGELES – Emergency response operations are complete, and the Indian Creek spill is moving into a new phase focused on environmental recovery and long-term monitoring.

Unified Command, including representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), Clallam County Sheriff's Office, and PetroCard, the responsible party, has stood down, marking the end of the emergency response phase. Additional support came from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue, Focus Wildlife, Republic Services, Polaris Applied Sciences, and Landau Associates. At its peak, there were more than 65 responders working on this incident.

With Unified Command concluded, next steps will be carried out by Ecology in collaboration with Tribal, state, and federal partners, working together to support long-term restoration and environmental monitoring. This includes:

- Continuing environmental monitoring
- A formal Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) to evaluate ecological harm and determine necessary restoration
- A potential transition to the Department of Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program, pending site assessment results, which may assume long-term site management and remediation if needed

While NRDA and toxics cleanup may overlap in timing and coordination, they are separate processes with different goals. The NRDA, led in collaboration with Tribal governments and federal and state agencies, addresses long-term impacts to natural resources, such as fish, water, wildlife, habitat and public recreation areas. This process includes assessing injuries, determining restoration needs, and working with the responsible party to fund and carry out restoration projects, while toxics cleanup addresses any long-term contamination at the site.

"Indian Creek is both culturally and ecologically significant for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe," said Jamie Michel, Tribal On-Scene Coordinator for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. "Throughout this response, the Tribe's perspectives and knowledge of the watershed were included in every decision. As we move into restoration, we remain committed to ensuring the health of the creek, the fish, the wildlife and the community that depend on it."

“This marks the close of a rigorous emergency response, but not the end of our work,” said Dave Byers, State On-Scene Coordinator for the Ecology. “We will continue to partner with the Tribe, local agencies, and the community to monitor condition and carry out restoration so Indian Creek remains healthy for future generations.”

Incident Response Summary

- Fuel released: 2,798 gallons of gasoline, 172 gallons of diesel
- Response actions: Containment boom deployed, sorbents and vac trucks used, contaminated soil removed, creek bed flushed and aerated
- Wildlife impacts: 2,134 fish, 538 invertebrates, one bird and one rodent confirmed killed, including juvenile salmon, lamprey, sculpin, and crawfish
- Public health: Temporary “Do Not Drink” advisory issued for Port Angeles water customers; lifted after testing confirmed water safety
- Air and water monitoring: Conducted throughout the response and continuing into next phase
- Access and use: Elwha River estuary and nearby beaches remain open and unaffected

As salmon begin returning to the Elwha River in the coming weeks, Unified Command, guided by input from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, federal and state agencies, local partners and environmental experts, determined that Indian Creek will remain open to fish passage. This consensus reflects site conditions, ongoing monitoring, the Tribe’s knowledge of the watershed and its cultural importance, and historically strong salmon survival in Indian Creek. Hatchery wells will be sampled regularly to ensure safe water for fish and the environment, and biological and chemical monitoring will inform any adjustments needed to protect returning fish.

More information

- For the latest information, please visit: [Tanker Truck Spill into Indian Creek - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)
- For information about Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), please visit: [Natural resource damage assessment and restoration - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)
- Report injured wildlife: 1-800-22-BIRDS (1-800-222-4737)
- Claims Line: Call 360-660-1071 or email indiancreekinquiries@petrocargd.com
- Questions or concerns: Liaison@ecy.wa.gov

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