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Role of Local Governments in Spill Response

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
AGM and Convention 2012

Graham Knox, Manager
Environmental Emergencies Program, April 14, 2012

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Presentation Overview

- BC's Environmental Emergency Program
- Spills and Spill Management in BC
- The Role of Local Government
- Marine Spill Issues
- Spill Legislative Review
- Tsunami Debris Planning



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BC's Environmental Emergency Program

The Province of British Columbia is committed to the protection of our environment from harmful spills from marine vessels, industrial facilities, or upland sources




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Response Model

- The spiller is "Responsible" for addressing their spill
- Ministry of Environment provides:
 - Technical assistance
 - Regulatory oversight
 - Direct response activities if required
- We promote:
 - Industry stewardship
 - Planning, prevention and preparedness

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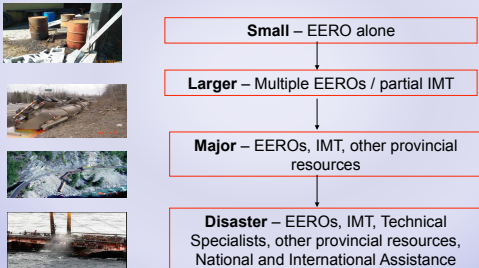
Response Capacity

- Environmental Emergency Program:
 - 10 Environmental Emergency Response Officers
 - 4 Program Planning, Preparedness and Management Staff
- Ministry & Provincial Government:
 - Provincial Incident Management Team (IMT)
 - Technical Specialists and other provincial resources
- National & International:
 - Pacific States / British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force
 - Western Canada Environmental Emergencies Group

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Scale of Response



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graph TD
    Small[Small – EERO alone] --> Larger[Larger – Multiple EEROs / partial IMT]
    Larger --> Major[Major – EEROs, IMT, other provincial resources]
    Major --> Disaster[Disaster – EEROs, IMT, Technical Specialists, other provincial resources, National and International Assistance]
  
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Spills in British Columbia

- Approximately 3500 spills / yr.
- Sources:
 - Vessel / Vehicle Fuels
 - Cargo
 - Facilities
 - Illegal Dumping
 - Pipelines



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Spill Examples



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Spill Examples



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Who is involved in responding to spills?



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Marine Oil Spill Response

Transport Canada	Responsible for regulation of navigation and shipping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets spill response planning requirements • Leads Port of Refuge decision making
Canadian Coast Guard	Lead federal agency for marine spill response operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Monitoring Officer • Federal On-scene commander
BC Ministry of Environment	Lead Provincial agency for all spills affecting BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address provincial public safety, environmental and economic concerns • Provincial Incident Commander representing all provincial interests
Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC)	Transport Canada certified spill response organization in BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May manage the spill on behalf of the responsible party • Provide operational response capability (personnel and equipment)

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Marine Oil Spill Response

Responsible Party (Spiller)	Responsible for management, response and costs associated with spill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Commander or delegate to WCMRC • Leads Port of Refuge decision making
Local Government	Responsible for emergency management in local jurisdiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve in Incident Command based on location and level of impacts • May participate in other aspects of the response • Consequence management
First Nations	Responsible for representing interests related to their lands and resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve in Incident Command based on location and level of impacts • May participate in other aspects of the response
Other agencies and key stakeholders	Environment Canada – provide scientific and technical advice Canadian Wildlife Service – address migratory bird impacts Fisheries and Oceans – Fishery and marine mammal impacts Health Authorities & Health Canada – address public health impacts

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Role of Local Governments

- Fulfilling emergency planning responsibilities
- Provision of first responders
- Protecting local government infrastructure
- Enforcing by-laws
- Consequence management
- Participation in Incident Management

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Roles in Marine Oil Spills

- Participate in Unified Command or provide a liaison
- Field response and Incident Command Post
 - Operations – protecting local government infrastructure, waste handling
 - Planning – identifying resources at risk, waste disposal
 - Logistics – identifying local government and area resources
 - Finance and Administration – tracking local government costs
- Consequence management
 - Evacuations and evacuee support
 - Dealing with influx of response personnel
 - Impacts to flow of goods and services to the community
 - Addressing other impacts to the community

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Marine Spill Issues

- Spill response capability and capacity
 - Planning standards
 - Federal resources
 - Equipment and capability gaps
 - Unconventional oils and chemical spills
 - Salvage and marine fire-fighting
 - Spill prevention
- Response management systems
- Port of Refuge policy
- Use of Volunteers
- Integrated response



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Legislative Review

- Meeting our legislated responsibilities
- Ensuring industry readiness for spills
- Comprehensive polluter-pay regime





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Conceptual Ideas

- Industry Funding Model
 - Program staffing
 - Prevention and preparedness
 - BC Spill Response Fund
- Provincially Regulated Spill Response Organization
 - "Umbrella" approach
 - Geographic Response Plans
 - Advisory Committee
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment Process
 - Formula vs. research based approaches
 - Consistency and fairness



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Tsunami Debris Planning Update

What we know about
The Japanese Tsunami Debris





Next Steps...

Working closely with partners, particularly local governments, First Nations and volunteers will be central to our work.

We will be contacting AVICC once the federal and provincial sides of these teams are in place.

For more information and contact details please visit:
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/publicnotifications/tsunami-debris.htm>

Additional Information

- See our website at:
 - <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/eemp/>
 - Or search "BC Environmental Emergency Program"
- Contact Graham Knox at:
 - Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca
 - 250-356-8383