HOW CANADA RESPONDS
TO SHIP-SOURCE OIL SPILLS

Vessels in Canadian waters must report oil spills immediately to the Canadian Coast Guard and polluters are responsible for and must pay for the spill cleanup. Each oil spill is unique and therefore the clean-up varies depending on many factors such as: weather, location, and spill size.

When an oil spill is reported, the Canadian Coast Guard leads the response as the Federal Incident Commander. They assess the initial situation and notify response partners. Those response partners include Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, certified oil spill response organizations, the provincial or territorial government, and Indigenous and coastal communities. After the oil is cleaned up, the Government of Canada conducts enforcement investigations into the causes of the spill and works with the polluter and response partners to recover the costs of the cleanup.

Vessels in Canadian waters must report oil spills immediately to the Canadian Coast Guard and the polluter must pay for the oil spill cleanup. There may be charges under Canadian laws.

The Canadian Coast Guard is the lead for marine oil spill response and works with partners to ensure an appropriate response to incidents by using towing vessels to keep the vessel away from shore and by using equipment to contain and clean up spills.

The **Incident Command System** is what the Canadian Coast Guard uses to bring all responders, communities and governments together to co-ordinate activities during a response to an oil spill incident. Indigenous and coastal communities participate in the response and assist in identifying environmental, cultural and economic priorities.

The **Response Organizations** are four industry-funded and Transport Canada-certified organizations provide oil spill clean-up services to the shipping industry.

National Aerial Surveillance Program Airplanes and Experts detect oil spills and provides "eyes in the sky" during the cleanup. They map cleanup progress.

Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centres monitor for incidents 24/7 on all coasts using radar and radio communications. The MCTS Centres assist the Incident Commander in responding to the spill. **Coast Guard Stations,** equipped with tools, boats and equipment are located close to the coastlines for immediate access.

Maps and Radar help response partners identify high-risk areas, manage response efforts and marine traffic. Some examples are high-resolution oceanographic data, radar and electronic nautical charts.

Transport Canada Marine Safety Inspectors inspect the vessel and take enforcement action as necessary, which can include detaining the vessel. These inspectors make sure the vessel operates under Canadian and International rules and oversee owner's response plans and salvage operations.

Shoreline Clean-up is done by response partners to remove debris, deflect the spill using booms or trap the spill at the shoreline.

Compensation for Clean-up reimburses communities and response partners as necessary and appropriate.

Federal Environmental Officers and Wildlife Biologists give scientific advice to response partners on the cleanup, the path of the oil and weather conditions. The advice given includes relevant information about the amount of marine and coastal wildlife in the area.

TOOLS USED FOR CLEANUP OF OIL ON THE WATER BY RESPONSE PARTNERS:

BOOMS:
Limit the spread of the oil on the water, deflects it away from sensitive areas and contain it for recovery.

SORBENTS:
These materials recover oil through absorption and then are removed from the water

MECHANICAL SKIMMERS:
Recover the oil from the water's surface and pump it into storage vessels such as barges.

UNDERWATER:
Sonar, visualization systems and divers are used to determine underwater impacts. Vacuuming, sorbents and dredging can then be used by response partners.

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