



Environment and Climate Change Canada's Environmental Emergencies Program

The Environmental Emergencies Program at Environment and Climate Change Canada takes a comprehensive approach to protecting Canadians and the environment from emergencies like hazardous spills from a ship at sea or a train on land.

The Program focuses on four key areas:

- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

Legislation including the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*; the *Fisheries Act*; and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* gives us the tools to manage environmental emergencies and protect the environment.

Prevention

Taking action to reduce risks helps to protect the environment. These preventative measures are also more efficient and cost-effective than responding to and recovering from an accident. Our compliance promotion team works with industry to provide advice and guidance on managing hazardous substances at their facilities. This guidance helps industry, including small business owners, to understand their responsibilities under Canadian legislation to protect the environment and prevent hazardous spills.

Preparedness

Establishing protocols and industry best practices as well as participating in response exercises are some of the ways that Environment and Climate Change Canada strengthens its partnerships and capacity within the response community. For example, oil-spill response exercises test out emergency plans, helping to improve them, and they provide the opportunity to collaborate with partners in advance of an environmental emergency. Furthermore, Environment and Climate Change Canada provides guidance to industrial operators in Canada to identify potential environmental risks at their facilities and develop appropriate emergency plans.



Response

Environment and Climate Change Canada's National Environmental Emergencies Centre is the Government of Canada's hub for pollution-related emergencies. The Centre coordinates emergency preparedness and response activities, provides oversight, and is available 24/7 to offer scientific advice to help protect the environment during an emergency. The National Environmental Emergencies Centre coordinates a range of services, such as

- producing weather forecasts for the emergency site;
- predicting where oil spills may travel (trajectory modelling);
- establishing priority areas for clean-up;
- recommending effective shoreline clean-up assessment techniques;
- offering advice on how to best protect sensitive ecosystems and wildlife, like migratory birds; and
- providing sensitivity maps to show resources at risk, like wildlife and ecosystems.

Recovery

Environment and Climate Change Canada's environmental emergency officers continue to monitor environmental conditions after the response phase is complete. Officers may help to identify clean-up measures and recovery goals, establish long-term monitoring objectives, and support routine site visits. Environmental restoration prioritizes the most important areas where there are lingering, long-term environmental impacts that can be reversed with clean-up efforts.

Collaboration

Environment and Climate Change Canada's experts across the country and across scientific disciplines—including wildlife biologists with the Canadian Wildlife Service, meteorologists with our weather service, and oil-spill chemists in our national laboratories—work together during an environmental emergency. We also support more than 50 external partners, including the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, Health Canada, provincial and territorial departments of the environment, Indigenous Peoples, the United States Coast Guard, and more.



For more information on Environment and Climate Change Canada's Environmental Emergencies Program, visit www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-emergencies-program/.

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