

# Management of Spills in TRCA's Jurisdiction

A brief overview of Spill Response in the GTA

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# Outline

- What is a Spill?
- Roles and Responsibilities
- TRCA's Spills Response Protocol
- TRCA's Spills Related Interests
- Case Studies - Recent Spills in TRCA's Jurisdiction
- Resources
- Questions and Answers

# What is a Spill?

- A spill is the discharge of one or more pollutants into the natural environment that may have a negative effect on land, water, wetlands, or wildlife.
- In Ontario Spills are classified by the Ontario Regulation 675/98
- Spills can be purposeful (example: illegal dumping) or accidental (example: motor accident, fire related spills, etc.)





# Agency Roles

- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP):
  - The lead agency for responding to spills via its Spills Action Centre
  - Receive Incident Reports (24hours/day)
  - Initiate and Coordinate Response
  - Determine Nature and Extent of Environmental Damage
  - Evaluate containment, cleanup and disposal
  - Enforces legislated responsibilities

# Agency Roles

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC):
  - Identify Environmental Sensitivities and Priorities
  - Collect and analyze Environmental Data using sensitivity mapping
  - Advise on cleanup options
  - Assess oiled shorelines to prioritize their protection and cleanup using the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT)
  - Bring Experts together to develop consensus-based advice



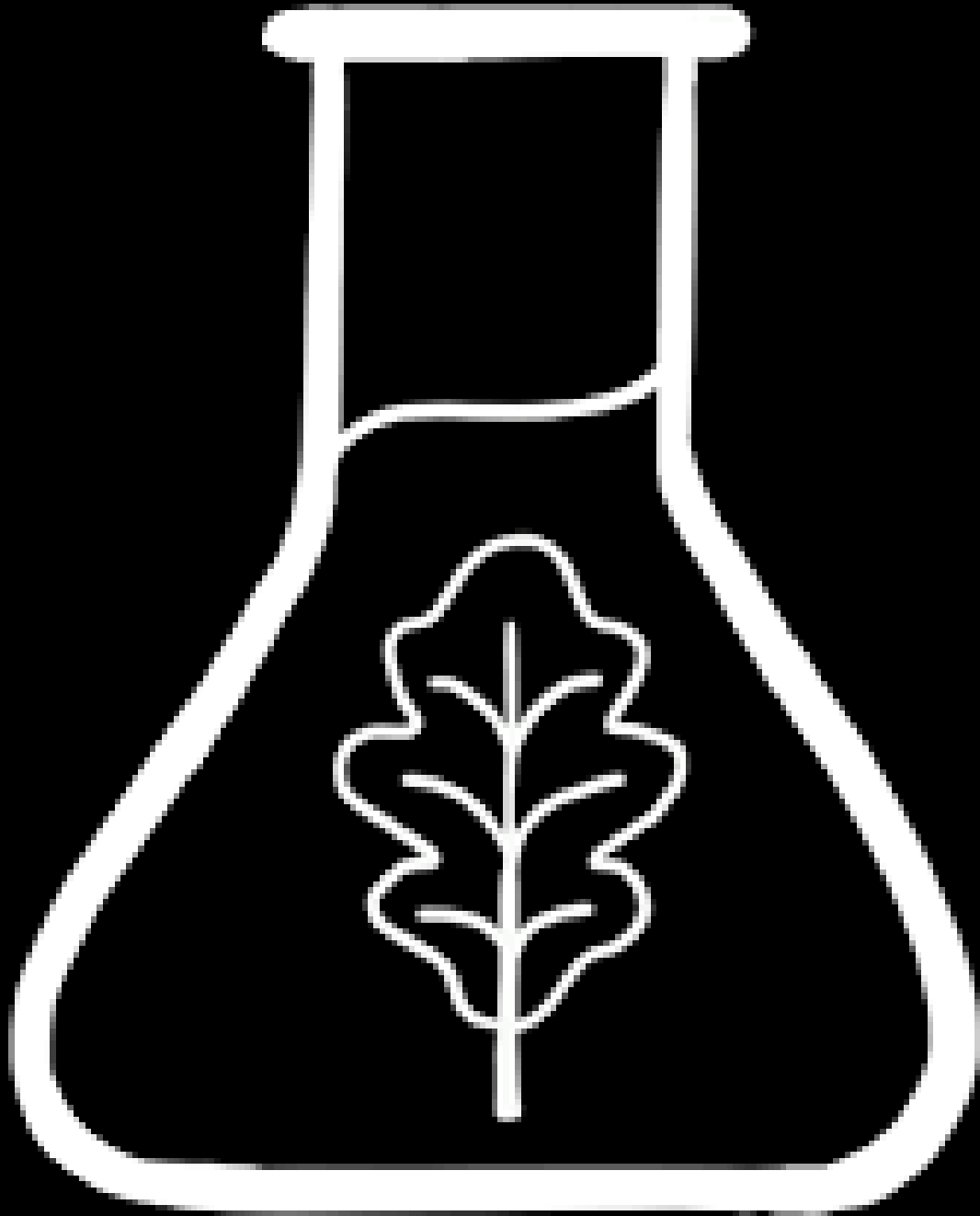
# Agency Roles

- Municipalities
  - Respond to spill incidents within their jurisdiction
  - Report the spill if it has not already been reported
  - Engage Fire Departments or EMS as needed
  - Police can assist with site security and evacuations



# Agency Roles

- TRCA
  - Review restoration and rehabilitation works in TRCA's regulated areas and issue permits if required
  - Provide data on watercourse, aquatic and terrestrial habitats
  - Provide baseline groundwater and surface water quality data
  - Undertake surface water sampling
  - Ensure issues related to spill impacts on TRCA-owned lands are addressed



# Owner's Responsibilities

- Owners of pollutants are required by provincial law to report spills to the Spills Action Centre if:
  - they allowed the spill to occur
  - had control of the substance immediately before the spill occurred
- The spill must also be immediately reported to:
  - the local municipality
  - the owner of the substance (if known)
  - the person in control of the substance (if known)
- The owner or controller of a spilled pollutant must clean up a spill and do everything practicable to prevent and eliminate negative impacts including the restoration of the natural environment to its original state



# TRCA's Involvement

- TRCA has an Internal Spills Reporting and Response Guideline and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- Response Protocol developed in 2005
- Revised multiple times over the years
- Action-oriented document developed to ensure proper assessment of each spill situation and facilitate coordination among TRCA staff from different departments and divisions, as well as various external stakeholders
- Dramatic increase in spills calls/reports to TRCA in recent years
- Often spills are different from each other, and so are TRCA's responses



# TRCA's Spills Related Interests



- Minimize, mitigate, or compensate spill related impacts on watercourses, wetlands, habitats and TRCA's land
- Provide quick response to the spill team by providing data on local aquatic, terrestrial habitats, watercourses, etc.
- Review and comment on clean-up plan
- Review restoration plan and permits restoration works
- Uphold TRCA's Environmental Management, Environmental Protection Policies and Regulatory Interests

# Case Study # 1: Glen Haffy CA (Highway 9 and Airport Road)



# Case Study # 2 Spills at Finch Ave. E and Sewells Rd; and Finch Ave. W and Weston Rd



# Case Study # 3: Etobicoke Fire Spill



# TRCA's Spill Response Protocol

- Two separate documents:
  - TRCA Internal Spills Reporting and Response Background Information
  - TRCA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- One Window Approach (Program Manager, Mitigation and Monitoring with direction provided by the Associate Director, Infrastructure Planning and Permits (IPP))
- Escalation procedure if decision from senior management is required
- Clarifies roles and responsibilities for TRCA Spills Group and members, including back-up for key team members
- Clarifies internal and external communication protocols



# Resources

- Environmental Protection Act
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e19>
- Spills Action Centre
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/report-pollution-and-spills>
- O Reg. 675/98
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/980675>

# Questions?

[www.trca.ca](http://www.trca.ca)

