

**CONFIDENTIAL
ISSUES NOTE**

Ministry of Justice

Date: Oct 31, 2012

Minister Responsible: Hon. Shirley Bond

**Earthquake & Tsunami
Warning in Haida Gwaii**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **We have a robust and multi-faceted emergency management system in British Columbia, one that is recognized globally for its efficiency and effectiveness.**
- **While much of the public and media focus has been on social media, it's critical to remember that it is just one part of what is a comprehensive notification system.**
- **Last weekend, we saw the leadership of local authorities up and down the coast as they activated their emergency action plans.**
- **I also believe our operational team at Emergency Management BC (EMBC) responded quickly and worked diligently to keep the public informed.**
- **This is not to suggest there aren't aspects of the response that can't be done better.**
- **Like all other significant seismic events, EMBC will analyze and debrief to identify any areas of potential improvement and ensure continuous improvement for our organization.**

IF ASKED about response time:

- **As is the case when any earthquake happens and there is the potential a tsunami may impact British Columbia's coast, the first official notification came from the West**

Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre (WCATWC) in Alaska.

- **This notification came directly to EMBC as well as to the many local governments, agencies, media and individuals who are registered with the WCATWC notification system.**
- **As is appropriate, many local authorities began acting as soon as they received this initial notification.**
- **As the next step to further increase awareness of this notification, EMBC staff then began using a variety of tools to relay this critical emergency information to local governments, media and key stakeholders.**
- **In fact, within 12 minutes the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) had began directly calling provincial emergency management staff and local authorities in the impacted regions.**
- **In addition, as for our overall response, Minister Bennett and other ministers were calling local mayors almost immediately to commit our government's support for anything they needed.**
- **Our first priority in these situations is to contact first responders and those who will lead the local emergency response, and then to let them take over and decide how best to contact the citizens of their communities.**

IF ASKED about online response:

- **The staff behind our @EmergencyInfoBC twitter feed will always be working to find that right balance between accuracy and timeliness in how we post social media updates.**

- **At the end of the day, the fact remains – if Mother Nature has let you know there is a problem, please don't wait for your cell phone to ring, or to get a text or Twitter message; move into emergency mode and activate your plan.**
- **I can assure you that Emergency Info BC staff engaged immediately and reached out to acquire trusted, accurate information to relay to British Columbians**
- **I also understand that the Tsunami Warning Centre's website incurred technical issues that delayed our ability to confirm many details.**
- **In addition, as soon as one could technically be convened and experts made available to answer questions, we held a media conference call to provide updated information and the call's recording was posted online.**

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

There were criticisms on the delay in information available online about the earthquake and tsunami alert. The EMBC online communication team (2 FTE's, unpaid overtime) were among the very first to respond to the event and self-deploy, however, it was 50 minutes before proper analysis of the information collected could be done and thereby relayed to the online public.

The timeline:

20:09 - West Coast Alaska Tsunami Warning centre Bulletin #1 notification to ECC
 20:10 - ECC called ECC supervisor to call in support as phone lines inundated
 20:21 - ECC notification to the EQ distribution list (internal stakeholders) of event
 20:24 - Provincial Duty Manager called by ECC
 20:33 - Provincial Duty Manager arrived at PECC
 20:48 - First online post by social media team
 21:05 - EMBC PENS #1 notification
 21:20 - EMBC joins WCATWC conference call #1
 22:24 - EMBC PENS #2 notification
 22:30 - EMBC joins WCATWC conference call #2

23:07 - EMBC PENS #3 notification
23:07 - PECC SitRep#1
23:30 - EMBC joins WCATWC conference call #3
23:30 - CCG call
23:36 - EMBC PENS #4 notification
00:07 - PECC SitRep #2
02:24 - PECC SitRep #3
03:03 - EMBC PENS #5 notification

Roughly 30 tweets occurred beginning at 20:48 pm

Eleven tsunami bulletins were issued by WCATWC for this event. Based on this information, EMBC has issued five tsunami notification bulletins through the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) to emergency management stakeholders and the media. A total of approximately 4800 voice calls, 4500 e-mail and 1600 faxes were issued. Some of these calls were reportedly delayed due to congestion and potentially because of power and telecom outages.

The Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) is the primary method of notification to designated parties within the coastal communities affected by the tsunami warning. Emergency Info BC is a public facing mechanism for information sharing of confirmed, accurate information through online channels.

EARTHQUAKE BACKGROUND

An earthquake of magnitude 7.7 (originally determined to be 7.1) occurred off the coast of Sandspit BC at 2004 hours October 27, 2012. An initial tsunami warning for the coastal areas of BC from the north tip of Vancouver Island to Alaska (including the North Coast and Haida Gwaii, as well as Bella Bella, Bella Coola, and Shearwater) was issued by the National Weather Service West Coast Alaska and Tsunami Warning Centre a short time later. The outer west coast of Vancouver Island (from Cape Scott to Port Renfrew and Juan de Fuca Strait from Jordan River to Greater Victoria including the Saanich Peninsula) were subsequently placed under a tsunami advisory.

Three Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs) were activated: Terrace, Prince George, and Victoria with EMBC staff and TEAMS members in attendance. The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) activated with 13 EMBC staff, three TEAMS members and a Provincial Emergency Radio Communications System (PERCS) amateur radio volunteer in attendance.

Local authority emergency operations centres (EOCs) were activated in:

- Prince Rupert

- Queen Charlotte City
- Masset:
- Port McNeill
- Skidegate
- Kincolith (Nisga'a)
- Port Hardy
- Bella Coola
- Bella Bella

EARTHQUAKE KEY MESSAGES
Oct. 29/12

IF ASKED about ‘what happens now?’:

- After any kind of major emergency we always do an operational review, and this time will be no different.
- In fact, right now EMBC is working to debrief with our partners, which we expect will happen over the coming weeks.
- Minister Bond has asked that we look at the whole response to ensure that we can identify and work with local authorities to improve any areas that may need it.

IF ASKED about response time:

- In emergencies, accurate information is paramount to public safety; a hasty response with potentially inaccurate information can lead to greater safety risks.
- As soon as government was made aware of the situation, staff were deployed to the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre to begin obtaining details, requesting and providing information as they could.
- The information provided to government comes from the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre.
- I understand that the Centre’s website incurred technical issues that delayed our ability to confirm many details.
- Like all other significant seismic events, EMBC will analyze and debrief to identify any areas of potential improvement and ensure continuous improvement for our organization.

IF ASKED about online response:

- I’m confident our team at EMBC responded as quickly as possible and did an excellent job keeping the public informed.
- Emergency Info BC staff engaged immediately and reached out to acquire trusted, accurate information to relay to British Columbians
- What this does speak to is the volume of people who turn to Twitter to receive emergency information updates.
- EMBC staff are trained to check and validate information to ensure the most factual information is passed on to British Columbians
- We want to ensure any information that we post is timely AND factual. Posting unconfirmed information is irresponsible, and could lead to escalated safety issues.
- The first EMBC blog post was 8:45pm and tweeted at 8:55pm. In the lead up to that, staff advised the public they were working on getting accurate information.
- As soon as one could technically be convened and experts made available to answer questions, a media conference call was held to provide updated information and the call’s recording was posted online.

IF ASKED about community response:

- EMBC staff liaised with the local authorities and key partner agencies to ensure validated information, activated emergency plans, and for any support needs.
- In addition, as for our overall response, Minister Bennett and other ministers were calling local mayors almost immediately to commit our government's support for anything they needed.

If asked about Tofino Notification:

- After hearing the mayor's comments, I had my emergency management team reach out to the mayor of Tofino. We need to make sure people to understand that Tofino was actually in the tsunami advisory zone not in the warning zone.
- Our first and most immediate priority is trying to assist those communities with their emergency plan in areas where there is a tsunami warning. We were trying to deal with the highest priority possible as the event unfolded and we need to make sure that we are dealing with those communities that are facing a tsunami warning.
- That said, we always do an operational review after these kinds of events and it's comments like these that will help us review and modify our plan if necessary.

IF ASKED about environmental preparedness:

- Jurisdiction for marine spills rests with the federal government. Operating under Transport Canada legislation, the Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for response to ship-source oil spills in marine waters.
- As has been widely reported BC is committed to working with the federal government to ensure BC has a world class spill response model for marine transport as articulated in the five key principals.
- During a marine spill event, the ministry would, in conjunction with the Provincial Emergency Program, coordinate the response of all provincial agencies and provide the provincial on-scene command. The ministry response would be integrated with federal agencies, local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders.
- In the event of a significant spill –marine or land-based, the Minister of Environment has the authority to declare an environmental emergency, and in so doing access the resources necessary to mount a response along with the authority to pursue cost recovery with the responsible party. The B.C. government could also apply for reimbursement from federal government emergency funds. State and federal response funding is also available in the United States.
- Responsibility for all spills rests with the spiller. The provincial Environmental Management Act establishes a polluter-pay model under which spillers are held accountable for costs associated with spills.
- Ministry of Environment environmental protection staff are part of emergency management BC's central coordination committee charged with the operational response to events like earthquakes and tsunamis. They get assessment reports from the field from a variety of sources including first responders, municipal, federal, and crown agencies.

**CONFIDENTIAL
ISSUES NOTE**

Ministry: Environment

Date: October 29, 2012

Minister Responsible: Terry Lake

**Marine Spill response as a
result of Earthquake/Tsunami**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Jurisdiction for marine spills rests with the federal government. Operating under Transport Canada legislation, the Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for response to ship-source oil spills in marine waters.**
- **As has been widely reported, B.C. is committed to working with the federal government to ensure we have a world class spill response model for marine transport as articulated in our five key principals.**
- **In the event of a significant spill, the B.C. government would take an active role in management and response to the spill to ensure provincial interests are protected.**
- **In conjunction with the Provincial Emergency Program, the Ministry of Environment would coordinate the response of all provincial agencies and provide the provincial on-scene command. The ministry response would be integrated with federal agencies, local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders.**
- **In the event of a significant spill – marine or land-based, the Minister of Environment has the authority to declare an environmental emergency. This includes accessing the resources necessary to mount a response and the authority to pursue cost recovery with the responsible party.**
- **The B.C. government could also apply for reimbursement from federal government emergency funds. State and federal response funding is also available in the United States.**
- **Responsibility for all spills ultimately rests with the spiller. The provincial Environmental Management Act establishes a polluter-pay model under which the responsible party is expected to pay all costs associate with a spill.**
- **The ministry's environmental protection staff are part of Emergency Management BC's central coordination committee charged with the operational response to events like earthquakes and tsunamis. They receive assessment reports from a variety of sources including first responders, municipal, federal, and crown agencies.**

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- **As a result of the 7.7 earthquake near Haida Gwaii and subsequent tsunami warning for much of coastal B.C. on October 27th, media are asking if B.C. is adequately prepared for possible oil tanker damage or marine spill that these events may cause.**

- Jurisdiction for marine spills rests with the federal government. Operating under Transport Canada legislation, the Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for response to ship-source oil spills in marine waters.
- The B.C. government has authority for the management of provincial lands and natural resources.
- In Canada and B.C., the responsible party in a spill is expected to pay all costs associated with clean-up.
- In July 2012, the B.C. government set out five minimum requirements that must be met before B.C. allows the construction and operation of heavy oil pipelines. The second requirement is: *World-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for B.C.'s coastline and ocean to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines and shipments.*

Communications Contact:

Program Area Contact:

File Created:

File Updated:

Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2012 1:38 PM
To: Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX
Subject: MoE 2: earthquake - rolling IN

Karen Johnston
Communications Director
Ministry of Environment
s.17 (cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: earthquake - rolling IN

Thx!

----- Original Message -----

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 09:35 AM
To: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: earthquake - rolling IN

Thanks Jeff. My stuff is in signoff right now. Will send it to you shortly.

-----Original Message-----

From: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:14 AM
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: earthquake - rolling IN

I'll send you our IN that's focused on criticism of our response (some said too slow) - and the latest sit report.

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:13 AM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Cc: Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX
Subject: earthquake - rolling IN

Morning - do you have anything like this in the works? I have a media call this am on our spill response capabilities after a quake that I'll share with you when signed off but wondering if you have any key messages that I can weave in -something like no reports of any infrastructure damage at this point etc.

tk

Karen Johnston
Communications Director
Ministry of Environment
s.17 (cell)

Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2012 1:39 PM
To: Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX
Subject: MoE 5: comment from Minister Lake re: how BC can ensure against oil tanker damage/spill from tankers near Haida Gwaii/earthquake zones

Karen Johnston
Communications Director
Ministry of Environment
s.17 (cell)

From: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:53 AM
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX; Bertrand, Stuart GCPE:EX; Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: comment from Minister Lake re: how BC can ensure against oil tanker damage/spill from tankers near Haida Gwaii/earthquake zones

thx

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:49 AM
To: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX; Bertrand, Stuart GCPE:EX; Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: comment from Minister Lake re: how BC can ensure against oil tanker damage/spill from tankers near Haida Gwaii/earthquake zones

FYI – sent to Beth Hong of the Vancouver Observer. She wanted to know if MTL felt we were ready for a marine spill in the event of an earthquake/tsunami. kj

Hi Beth – Minister Lake is travelling this am so unable to call you directly. I trust you find the written response below helpful though. Give me a ring s.17 if you need anything further. Thanks for your enquiry. kj

- Jurisdiction for marine spills rests with the federal government. Operating under Transport Canada legislation, the Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for response to ship-source oil spills in marine waters.
- As has been widely reported BC is committed to working with the federal government to ensure BC has a world class spill response model for marine transport as articulated in the five key principals.
- During a marine spill event, the ministry would, in conjunction with the Provincial Emergency Program, coordinate the response of all provincial agencies and provide the provincial on-scene command. The ministry response would be integrated with federal agencies, local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders.
- In the event of a significant spill –marine or land-based, the Minister of Environment has the authority to declare an environmental emergency, and in so doing access the resources necessary to mount a response along with the authority to pursue cost recovery with the responsible party. The B.C. government could also apply for reimbursement from federal government emergency funds. State and federal response funding is also available in the United States.

- Responsibility for all spills rests with the spiller. The provincial Environmental Management Act establishes a polluter-pay model under which spillers are held accountable for costs associated with spills.
- Ministry of Environment environmental protection staff are part of emergency management BC's central coordination committee charged with the operational response to events like earthquakes and tsunamis. They get assessment reports from the field from a variety of sources including first responders, municipal, federal, and crown agencies.
- In the case of last night's earthquake off Haida Gwaii, there are no other reports of any damage received, however, further assessments will be carried out during daylight hours.

From: Beth Hong [<mailto:beth@thevancouverobserver.com>]

Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:46 AM

To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

Subject: comment from Minister Lake re: how BC can ensure against oil tanker damage/spill from tankers near Haida Gwaii/earthquake zones

Hi Karen,

Does Minister Lake have any comment on whether the province is adequately prepared for possible oil tanker damage or spill as a result of earthquakes and tsunamis?

If you can, let me know by Sunday at noon. If this is too tight but the Minister has a comment or statement that will be public at a later time, let me know.

Best,

Beth

--

BETH HONG

Associate Editor | The Vancouver Observer

C: s.17 | www.vancouverobserver.com

EMAIL: beth@thevancouverobserver.com | TWITTER: @VanObserver

Winner of the 2012 Canadian Journalism Foundation Excellence in Journalism award. 2010 winner Canadian Online Publishing Award for "Best online-only articles", runner up in 2011 for "Best website in Canada."

Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2012 1:38 PM
To: Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX
Subject: MoE 4: MEDIA- Vancouver Observer - Beth Hongs - -deadline noon today -- reordered as per Jim's suggestion -- pls review

Karen Johnston
Communications Director
Ministry of Environment
s.17 (cell)

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:59 AM
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Hofweber, Jim E ENV:EX; Shoemaker, Wes ENV:EX
Cc: Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MEDIA- Vancouver Observer - Beth Hongs - -deadline noon today -- reordered as per Jim's suggestion -- pls review

My suggested edits below:

- Jurisdiction for marine spills rests with the federal government. Operating under Transport Canada legislation, the Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for response to ship-source oil spills in marine waters.
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- In the event of a significant spill –marine or land-based, the Minister of Environment has the authority to declare an environmental emergency, and in so doing access the resources necessary to mount a response along with the authority to pursue cost recovery with the responsible party. The B.C. government could also apply for reimbursement from federal government emergency funds. State and federal response funding is also available in the United States.
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- Ministry of Environment environmental protection staff are part of emergency management BC's central coordination committee charged with the operational response to events like earthquakes and tsunamis. They get assessment reports from the field from a variety of sources including first responders, municipal, federal, and crown agencies.
- In the case of last night's earthquake off Haida Gwaii, there are no other reports of any damage received, however, further assessments will be carried out during daylight hours.

Background:

- The Ministry of Environment's 2010 operating budget for our spill response program, including oil spills, was approximately \$1 million. The 2011 budget is also \$1 million. In 2010 there were 12 full-time equivalent staff dedicated to spill response, and in 2011 there are 14. Staff and funding are strategically distributed across the province.

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:49 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX; Hofweber, Jim E ENV:EX; Shoemaker, Wes ENV:EX
Cc: Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: MEDIA- Vancouver Observer - Beth Hongs - -deadline noon today -- reordered as per Jim's suggestion -- pls review

1. During a marine spill event, the ministry would, in conjunction with the Provincial Emergency Program, coordinate the response of all provincial agencies and provide the provincial on-scene command. The ministry response would be integrated with federal agencies, local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders. The Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for response to ship-source oil spills in marine waters.
2. In the event of a significant spill –marine or land-based, the Minister of Environment has the authority to declare an environmental emergency, and in so doing access the resources necessary to mount a response along with the authority to pursue cost recovery with the responsible party. The B.C. government could also apply for reimbursement from federal government emergency funds. State and federal response funding is also available in the United States.
3. Responsibility for all spills rests with the spiller. The provincial Environmental Management Act establishes a polluter-pay model under which spillers are held accountable for costs associated with spills.
4. As has been widely reported BC is committed to a world class spill response model for any and all future pipeline projects based on five key principals. Those conditions not only lay out how our government is protecting our environment and our residents.
5. Ministry of Environment environmental protection staff are part of emergency management BC's central coordination committee charged with the operational response to events like earthquakes and tsunamis. They get assessment reports from the field from a variety of sources including first responders, municipal, federal, and crown agencies.
6. In the case of last night's earthquake off Haida Gwaii, there are no other reports of any damage received, however, further assessments will be carried out during daylight hours.

Background:

- The Ministry of Environment's 2010 operating budget for our spill response program, including oil spills, was approximately \$1 million. The 2011 budget is also \$1 million. In 2010 there were 12 full-time equivalent staff dedicated to spill response, and in 2011 there are 14. Staff and funding are strategically distributed across the province.

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:38 AM
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Cc: Hofweber, Jim E ENV:EX; Shoemaker, Wes ENV:EX
Subject: Re: MEDIA- Vancouver Observer - Beth Hongs - -deadline noon today -- pls review suggested response

Karen,

Looks good but your sixth bullet I think (now that I have had a few minutes to mull it over) is the most important message, that being that response to tanker spills is the responsibility of the federal government and that is why we are looking to Canada to enhance capacity. From there we could go on to talk about our support role in the case of a tanker spill.

Jim

On 2012-10-28, at 9:32 AM, "Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX" <Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Question: Does Minister Lake have any comment on whether the province is adequately prepared for possible oil tanker damage or spill as a result of earthquakes and tsunamis?

Suggested response: email following info to reporter:

7. The Ministry of Environment is committed to protecting British Columbia's coastal environmental resources from harmful oil spills from marine vessels, industrial facilities or inland sources.

Karen Johnston
Communications Director
Ministry of Environment
s.17 (cell)

Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2012 1:38 PM
To: Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX
Subject: MoE 3: MEDIA- Vancouver Observer - Beth Hongs - -deadline noon today -- pls review suggested response

Karen Johnston
Communications Director
Ministry of Environment
s.17 (cell)

From: Shoemaker, Wes ENV:EX
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:50 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Cc: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Hofweber, Jim E ENV:EX
Subject: Re: MEDIA- Vancouver Observer - Beth Hongs - -deadline noon today -- pls review suggested response

I agree with Jim's assessment of bullet 6 Rest looks gods.

Wes

W.H. (Wes) Shoemaker
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment
5th Floor, 2975 Jutland Road
Victoria, BC
Bus: (250) 387-5429
Fax: (250) 387-6003
wes.shoemaker@gov.bc.ca

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Sent from my iPhone

On 2012-10-28, at 9:38 AM, "Standen, Jim ENV:EX" <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

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Question: Does Minister Lake have any comment on whether the province is adequately prepared for possible oil tanker damage or spill as a result of earthquakes and tsunamis?

Suggested response: email following info to reporter:

- Ministry of Environment environmental protection staff are part of emergency management BC's central coordination committee charged with the operational response to events like earthquakes and tsunamis. They get assessment reports from the field from a variety of sources including first responders, municipal, federal, and crown agencies.
- In the case of last night's earthquake off Haida Gwaii, there are no other reports of any damage received, however, further assessments will be carried out during daylight hours.
- In the event of a significant spill, the Minister of Environment has the authority to declare an environmental emergency, and in so doing access the resources necessary to mount a response along with the authority to pursue cost recovery with the responsible party. The B.C. government could also apply for reimbursement from federal government emergency funds. State and federal response funding is also available in the United States.
- Responsibility for all spills rests with the spiller. The provincial Environmental Management Act establishes a polluter-pay model under which spillers are held accountable for costs associated with spills.
- The Ministry of Environment is committed to protecting British Columbia's coastal environmental resources from harmful oil spills from marine vessels, industrial facilities or inland sources.
- During a marine spill event, the ministry would, in conjunction with the Provincial Emergency Program, coordinate the response of all provincial agencies and provide the provincial on-scene command. The ministry response would be integrated with federal agencies, local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders. The Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for response to ship-source oil spills in marine waters.
- As has been widely reported BC is committed to a world class spill response model for any and all future pipeline projects based on five key principals. Those conditions not only lay out how our government is protecting our environment and our residents.

Background:

- The Ministry of Environment's 2010 operating budget for our spill response program, including oil spills, was approximately \$1 million. The 2011 budget is also \$1 million. In 2010 there were 12 full-time equivalent staff dedicated to spill

s.17