

Spills in the Northwest Territories 2014



Produced by: NWT Centre for Geomatics

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) maintains a database of hazardous material spills reported in the Northwest Territories (NWT) since 1971. This report briefly summarizes the data collected for spills reported in 2014.

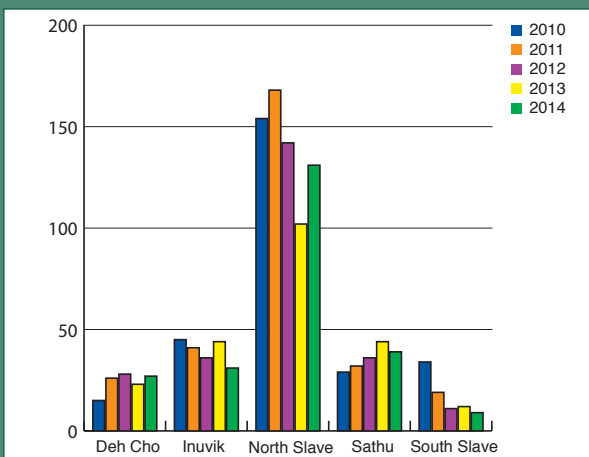
- 237 spills were reported in 2014, 12 more than 2013.
- 55% of the reported spills were small, less than 100 litres.
- 55% of the spills reported were in the North Slave Region.
- Mining spills reported have increased by 7% from 2013.
- 36% of the spills reported involved fuel oil.
- 410,909 litres of wastewater was spilled, which is 222,000 litres less than 2013.

Where did the spills occur?

In 2014, 237 spills were reported to the 24-hour Spill Report Line in the Northwest Territories. Just over half (55%) of the reported spills occurred in the North Slave Region. Inuvik (13%), Sahtu (17%), Deh Cho (11%) and South Slave (4%).

The mining industry (29%) showed an overall increase from 2013, while there was no significant change in government – municipal/territorial/federal (25%), petroleum companies (11%), transportation companies (3%), private individuals (6%), unknown parties (12%) and others (14%). Figure 1 below shows the number of reported spills by region between 2010 and 2014.

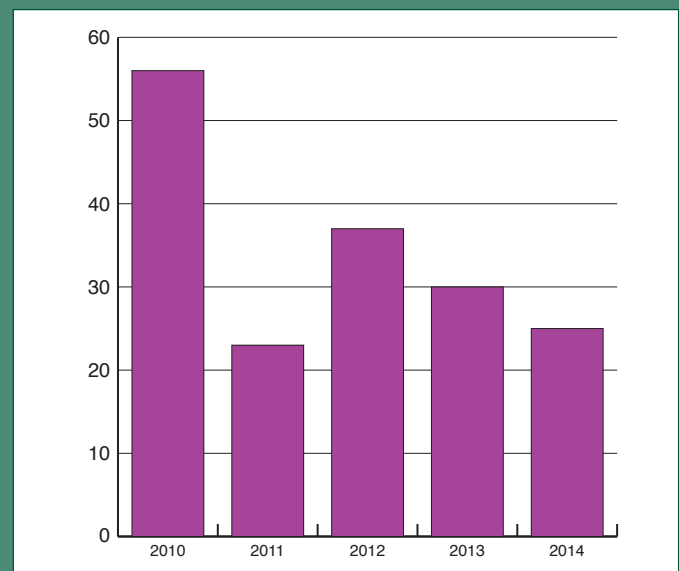
Figure 1 – Number of Reported Spills by Region



Residential oil tank spills

Since 2010, there continues to be an overall decreasing trend in the number of spills reported in the NWT from residential-size steel oil tanks (1,135 litres) due to corrosion. The Homeowners Guide to Oil Tanks was released in 2010 and is believed to have assisted in reducing these spills. Visit www.enr.gov.nt.ca or call (867) 873-7654 for a free copy.

Figure 2 – Number of Spills by Residential Fuel Tanks



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What was spilled?

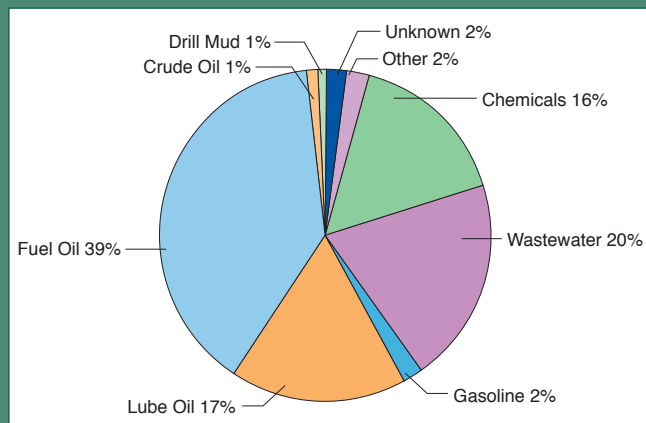
Fuel oil, which includes diesel and heating fuel, accounted for 39% of the spills reported in 2014, and in the previous year. However, there was an increase in volume of 21,885 litres spilled in 2014.

There was a 5% increase in chemical spills from the previous year. The volume of chemical spills was 70,161 litres less than the previous five-year average. Most of these reports involve industrial sites and transportation companies that utilize or move large volumes of chemicals throughout the NWT.

Wastewater, including sewage, produced water (salty wastewater brought to the surface during oil and gas extraction), mine tailings, fine processed kimberlite from diamond mines and fresh water was responsible for 20% of reported spills. In 2014, there were two more wastewater spills and the volume reported decreased by 222,341 litres from 2013.

Figure 3 below shows the number of spills reported by product categories.

Figure 3 – Number of Spills by Product



For more information on spills, contact:

Environment Division
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9
Telephone: (867) 873-7654
Facsimile: (867) 873-0221
Web site: <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca>

How much was spilled?

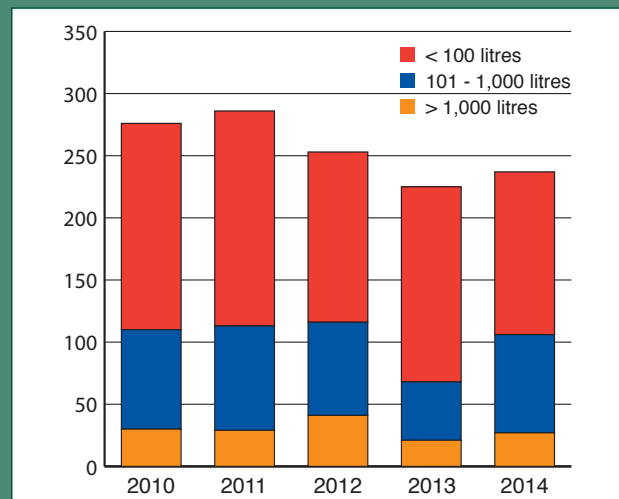
Six of the nine product volumes spilled were less than the five-year average.

Table 1 – Volume Spilled (Litres)

	2014	5-year Average (2009-2013)
Wastewater	410,909	2,269,882
Fuel Oil	84,541	33,141
Other	81,251	6,071
Drill Mud	54,563	20,621
Lube Oil	7,320	10,899
Chemicals	4,585	73,183
Gasoline	352	13,952
Crude Oil ¹	205	22,134
Unknown	0	30

¹ "Crude Oil" is separated from "Others" to show volume.

Figure 4 – Number of Spills and Size



55% of all spills in 2014 were less than 100 litres.

To report a spill, call the
24-hour Spill Report Line
(867) 920-8130
(Collect calls accepted.)