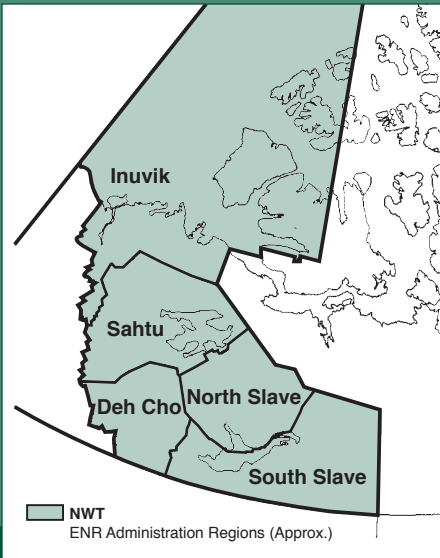


Spills in the Northwest Territories 2013



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 2013.

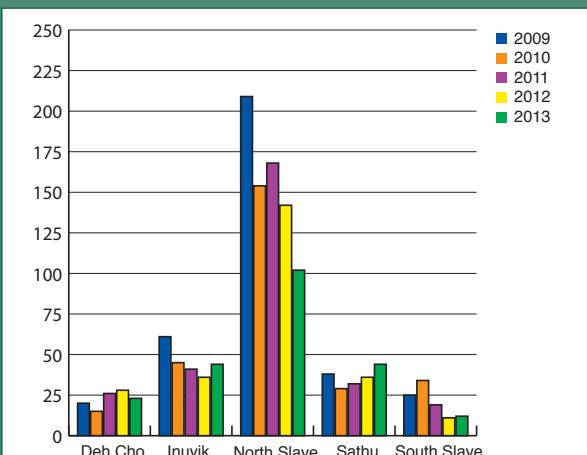
- 225 spills were reported in 2013, 28 less than 2012.
- 70% of the reported spills were small, less than 100 litres.
- 45% of the spills reported were in the North Slave Region.
- Mining spills have decreased by 9% from 2012.
- 39% of the spills reported involved fuel oil.
- 633,000 litres of wastewater was spilled, which is 4.7 million litres less than last year.

Where did the spills occur?

In 2013, 225 spills were reported to the 24-Hour Spill Report Line in the Northwest Territories. Just under half (45%) of the reported spills occurred in the North Slave Region. The Inuvik and Sahtu Regions followed (20% each), Deh Cho (10%) and South Slave (5%).

The mining industry (22%) showed an overall decrease, while there was no significant change in government – municipal/territorial/federal (16%), Petroleum companies (18%), transportation companies (6%), private individuals (10%), unknown parties (16%) and others (12%). Figure 1 below shows the number of reported spills by region between 2009 and 2013.

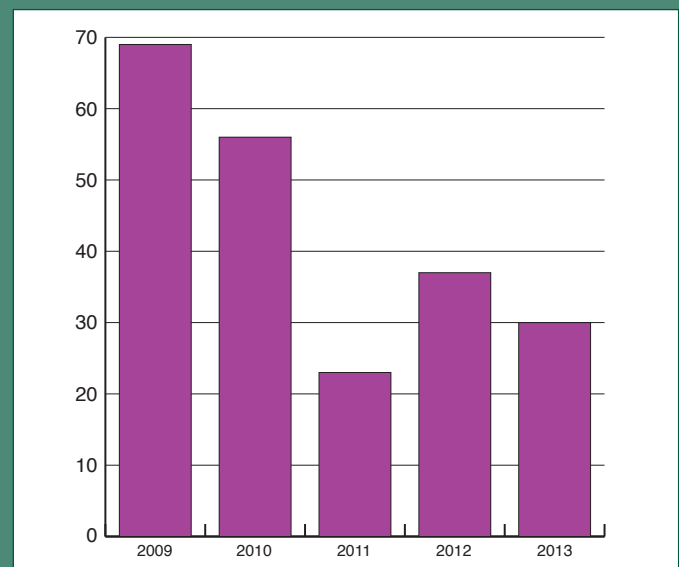
Figure 1 – Number of Reported Spills by Region



Residential oil tank spills

There continues to be an overall decreasing trend in the number of spills reported in the NWT since 2009. Past trends were showing a general increase in the number of spills reported from residential-size steel oil tanks (1,135 litres) due to corrosion. Since the release of the Homeowner's Guide to Fuel Tanks in 2010 there continues to be a significant decrease in the amount of spills. Visit www.enr.gov.nt.ca or call (867) 873-7654 for a free copy.

Figure 2 – Number of Spills by Residential Oil Tanks



Spills in the Northwest Territories 2013

What was spilled?

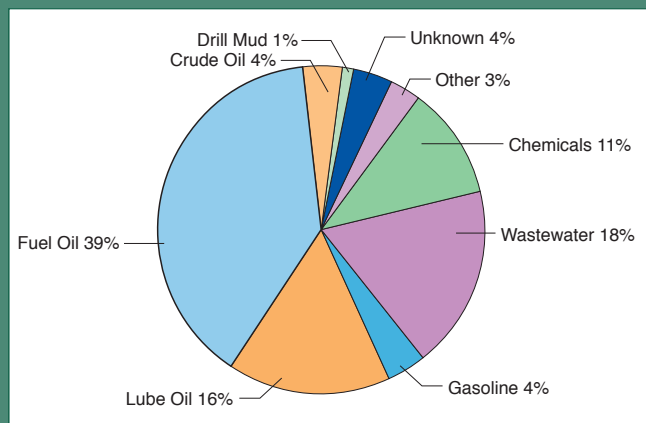
Fuel oil, which includes diesel and heating fuel, accounted for 39% of the spills reported, up 5% from 2012. As well, there was an increase in volume of 39,019 litres since last year due to a one-time isolated incident.

There was a 3% decrease in chemical spills from the previous year. The volume of chemicals spills was 73,817 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, such as antifreeze, glycol and methanol, 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 18% of reported spills. In 2013, there were 23 less wastewater spills and the volume reported significantly decreased by 4,658,997 litres from last year.

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

Figure 3 – Number of Spills by Product



How much was spilled?

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

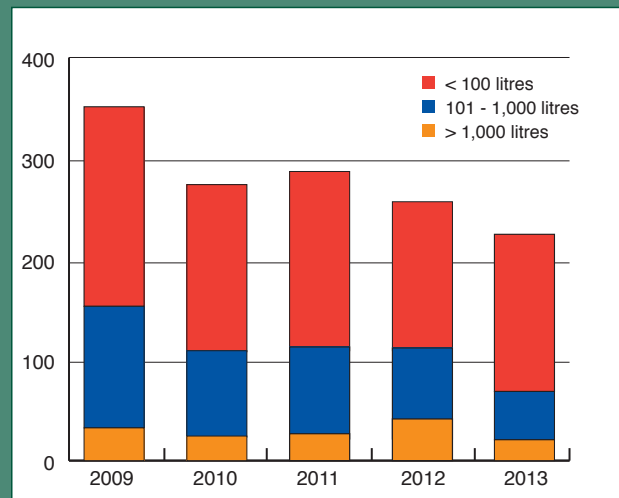
Table 1 – Volume Spilled (Litres)

	2013	5-year Average (2008-2012)
Wastewater	633,250	7,450,613
Fuel Oil ¹	62,656	30,480
Other	16,731	2,725
Gasoline	15,416	11,180
Drill Mud	7,000	21,421
Lube Oil	3,049	22,082
Crude Oil ²	2,795	21,574
Chemicals	929	74,746
Unknown	0	227

¹ "Fuel Oil" is double the five-year average due to an isolated one-time event in July 2013.

² "Crude Oil" is separated from "Others" to show volume.

Figure 4 – Number of Spills and Size



70% of all spills were less than 100 litres.

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>

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