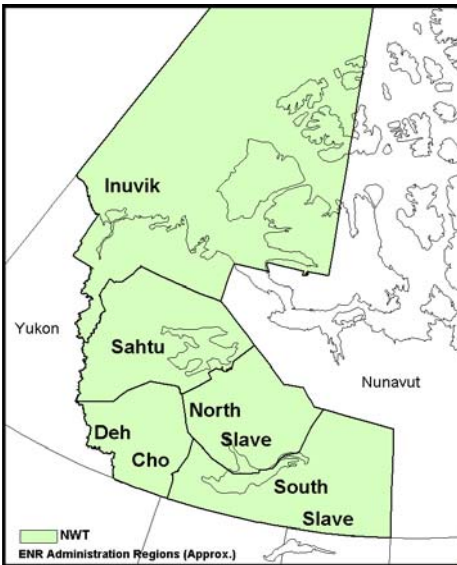


Spills in the Northwest Territories 2006



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 2006.

- 332 spills were reported in 2006, 97 less than 2005!
- Over half (56%) of reported spills were less than 100 litres.
- 59% of the spills reported were in the North Slave Region.
- The petroleum and mining industries were responsible for half (51%) of the reported spills.
- 35% of the spills reported involved fuel oil.
- Wastewater (mine tailings, sewage, produced water) continues to top the list at 1.2 million litres spilled.

WHERE DID THE SPILLS OCCUR?

Fifty nine percent (59%) of the spills reported last year occurred in the North Slave Region, mostly from the mining sector. Sahtu followed with 13%, Inuvik (10%), South Slave (9%) and Deh Cho (9%). Reporting protocols implemented for the mining, oil and gas sectors are reducing the number of smaller spills being reported. This, and because no wells were drilled in the Mackenzie Delta, attributed to the substantial decrease in the number of spills reported in the Inuvik Region. Figure 1 below shows the number of reported spills by region between 2001 and 2006.

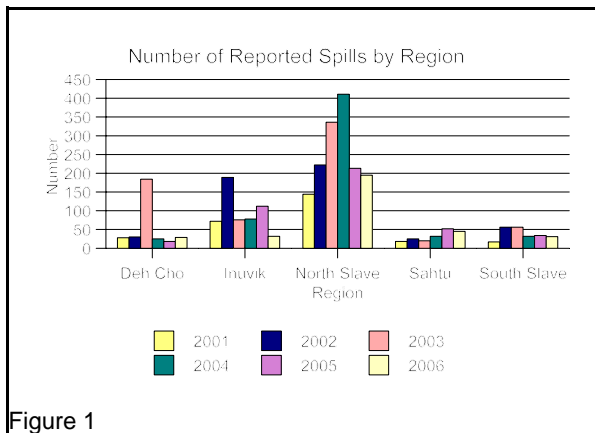


Figure 1

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE?

Figure 2 indicates that industry continues to report the most spills with the mining sector reporting 36% of them in 2006. As in past years, most of these spills occurred in the North Slave Region where the bulk of mining occurs. The petroleum sector saw a reduction of reported spills down from 24% in 2005 to 15% in 2006. Government (including all federal, territorial and municipal governments and crown corporations) accounted for 21% of all reported spills up 4% from the year earlier.

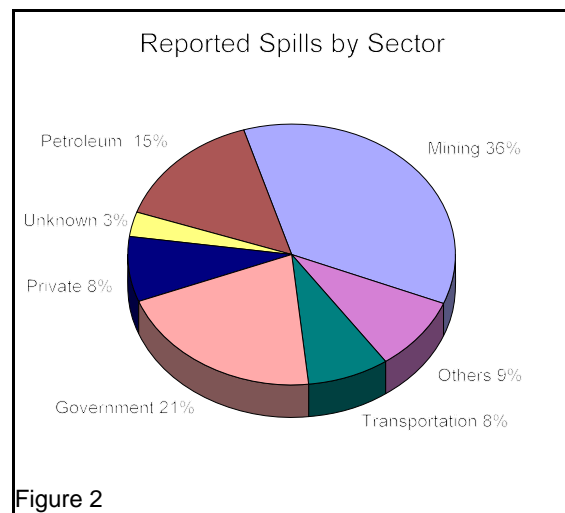


Figure 2

“Preventing a spill is more desirable than even the best clean up!”

WHAT WAS SPILLED?

Fuel oil, which includes diesel and heating fuel, accounted for 35% of the spills reported. Most of these spills were from storage tanks less than 4,000 litres in volume.

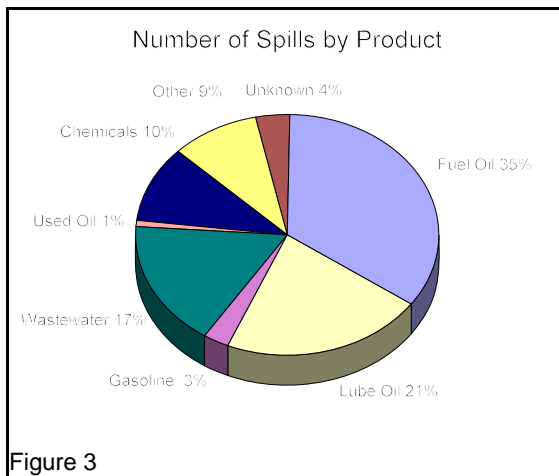
Due to the new reporting protocols for the mining and oil/gas sectors, the number of lubricating oil spills has continued to go down from 28% last year. Most of these reports involved blown hydraulic lines or leaks from heavy equipment and haul trucks and smaller industrial vehicles such as pick-ups leaking engine and transmission fluids.

Wastewater, including sewage, produced water (salty wastewater brought to the surface during oil and gas extraction) and mine tailings was responsible for 17% of reported spills.

Chemicals made up 10% of the total number of spills reported. The most commonly spilled chemical was antifreeze or glycol-based products from vehicles.

No natural gas spills were reported in 2006.

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

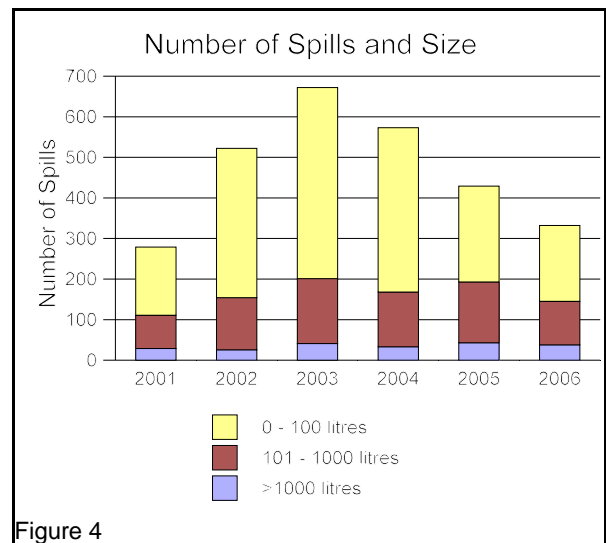


HOW MUCH WAS SPILLED?

	2006	5-Year Average (2001-2005)
Wastewater	1,246,206	1,810,021
Fuel Oil	58,842	70,912
Other (crude oil, drill mud)	2,399	53,564
Lube Oil	17,219	26,149
Chemicals	25,423	29,090
Used Oil	1,294	1,869
Gasoline	748	6,155
Unknown	500	212
Natural Gas ^{1,2}	0 m ³	27,411 m ³

¹ Released to air and reported in cubic metres (m³). May contain hydrogen sulphide.
² "Natural Gas" is separated from "Others" to show volume.

Fifty-six percent (56%) of all spills reported were less than 100 litres (Figure 4). The number of spills between 101 and 1,000 litres and spills greater than 1,000 litres decreased slightly from last year.



For further information on spills contact:

Environmental Protection 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
 Website: www.enr.gov.nt.ca/eps/index.htm

To report a spill call the
24-Hour Spill Report Line
(867) 920-8130
(collect calls accepted)