

Spills in the Northwest Territories 2012



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 2012.

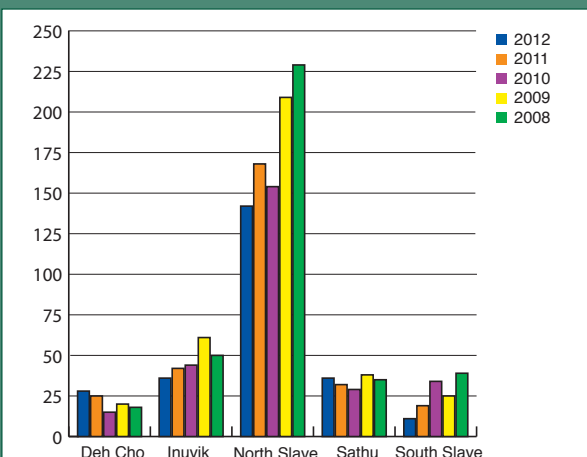
- 253 spills were reported in 2012, 33 less than 2011.
- 52% of the reported spills were small, less than 100 litres.
- 57% of the spills reported were in the North Slave Region.
- Mining and petroleum spills increased.
- Government, unknown parties and transportation spills decreased or stayed the same.
- 34% of the spills reported involved fuel oil.
- 5.3 million litres of wastewater was spilled.

Where did the spills occur?

In 2012, 253 spills were reported to the 24-hour Spill Report Line. Over half (57%) of the reported spills occurred in the North Slave Region. The Inuvik Region and Sahtu Regions followed (14% each), Deh Cho (11%) and South Slave (4%).

Unknown parties (14%) and government – municipal/territorial/federal (18%) saw a decrease from a year earlier. Mining companies (31%), petroleum companies (13%) and private individuals (7%) saw an increase from 2011. Others (10%) and transportation (7%) remained the same. Figure 1 below shows the number of reported spills by region between 2008 and 2012.

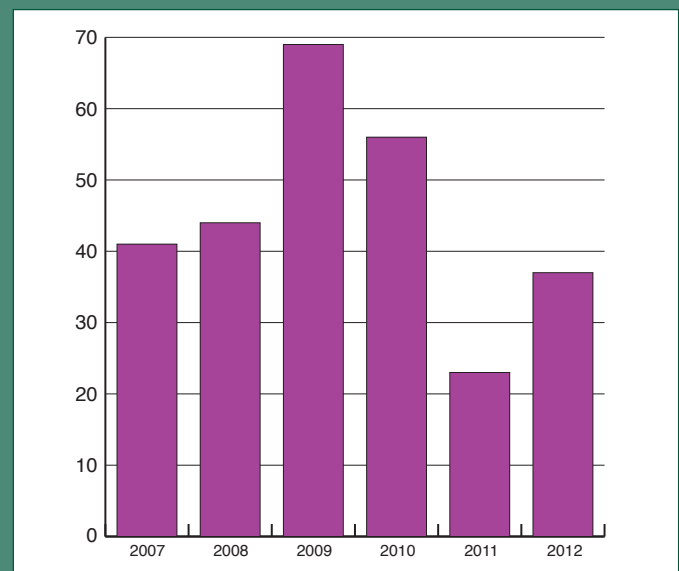
Figure 1 – Number of Reported Spills by Region



Residential oil tank spills

There continues to be an overall decreasing trend in the number of spills reported in the NWT since 2009, even though in 2012 there was a small increase. 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 Fuel Tanks



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What was spilled?

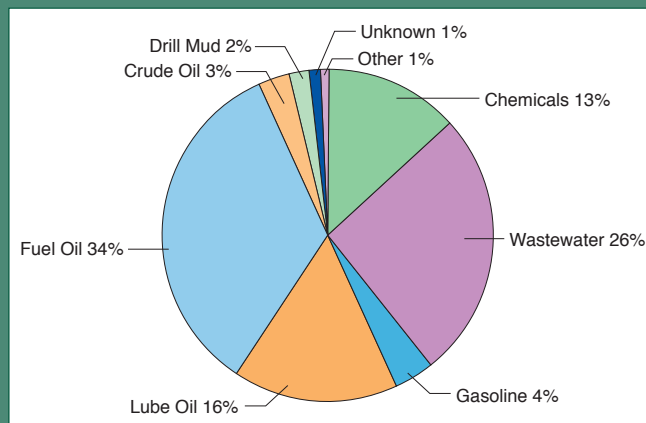
Fuel oil, which includes diesel and heating fuel, accounted for 34% of the spills reported. Up 9% from 2011, but there was a decrease in volume of 6,303 litres since last year.

Lubricating oil spills increased by 11% from the previous year. Most of these reports involved heavy equipment, haul trucks and smaller industrial vehicles such as pick-ups leaking hydraulic, engine and transmission fluids.

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 26% of reported spills. In 2012, there were four less wastewater spills, but the volume reported significantly increased by 5,014,685 litres from last year. Despite the increased volume of wastewater spills, there has been a decline in volumes of spilled wastewater this year when compared to the five-year average.

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?

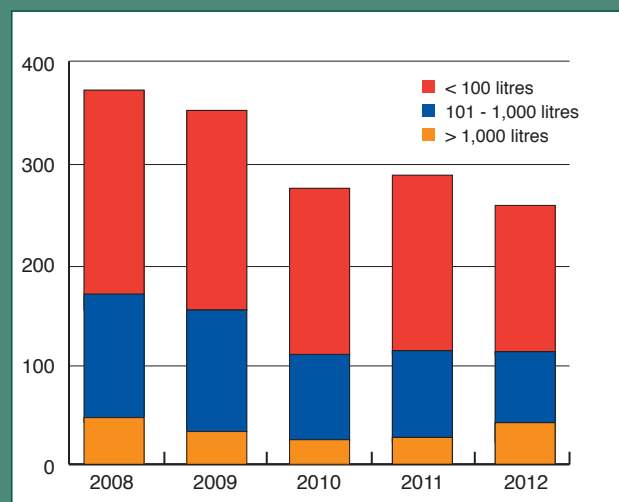
Six of the nine product volumes spilled were less than the five-year average.

Table 1 – Volume Spilled (Litres)

	2012	5-year Average (2007-2011)
Wastewater	5,292,247	7,793,068
Crude Oil ¹	82,313	5,537
Drill Mud	52,455	33,059
Fuel Oil	23,637	47,427
Gasoline	21,214	7,186
Chemicals	11,898	77,848
Lube Oil	6,380	26,185
Other	25	2,346
Unknown	20	206

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

Figure 4 – Number of Spills and Size



52% of all spills were less than 100 litres.

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