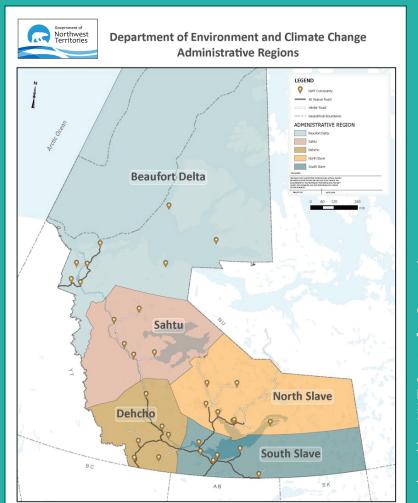


2023 Northwest Territories Spills Report



The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) has maintained a database of all hazardous material spills reported in the Northwest Territories (NWT) since 1971. This report briefly summarizes the data collected for spills reported in 2023.

- 213 spills were reported in 2023, a decrease of 40 spills or 17.2% compared to 2022.
- 59% of the reported spills were less than 100 litres or 100 kilograms.
- 52% of the reported spills occurred in the North Slave region.
- Spills at mining operations accounted for 35% of reported spills in 2023.
- Spills at government operations (municipal, territorial, and federal) accounted for 21% of reported spills.
- 24% of spills reported in 2023 involved fuel oil.
- The number of spills from home oil tanks is down by 84% since 2010, when ECC released the *Homeowners' Guide to Oil Tanks*.

Location of spills

In 2023, 213 spills were reported to the 24-Hour Spill Report Line in the NWT. Of those, 52% occurred in the North Slave region. Figure 1 shows the number of reported spills by region from 2019 to 2023.

The following is the percentages of reported spills by sector for 2023:

- Mining operations 35%
- Government operations (municipal, territorial, and federal) 21%
- Transportation companies 4%
- Private individuals 22%
- Petroleum operations 4%
- Construction sites 6%
- Industry 8%

Number of Spills Between 1993-2023

Figure 2 below shows the number of spills by volume since 1993. Of the spills reported in 2023, 59% were less than 100 litres or kilograms.

Figure 2 – Number of Spills by Year

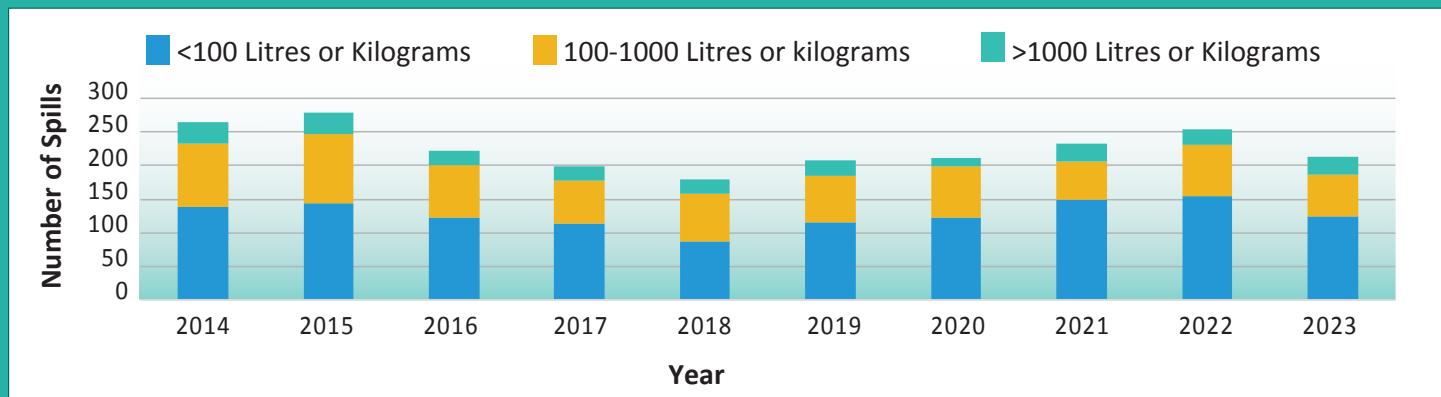
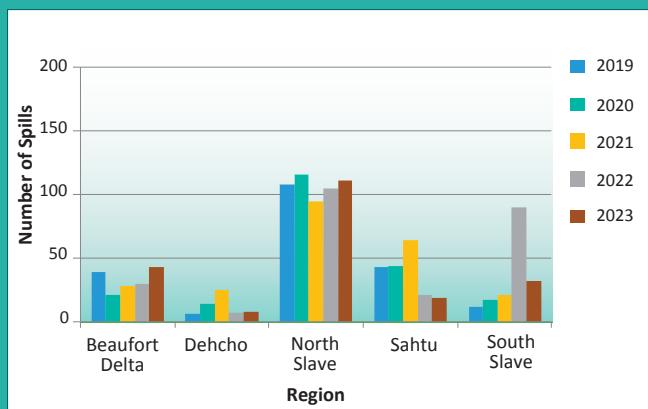


Figure 1 – Number of Spills by Region



2023 Northwest Territories Spills Report



What and how much was spilled?

The largest reported spill in 2023 was from a single spill event at a North Slave region mining operation resulting in the release of 450 million litres of waste categorized as “Other” (see Table 1). This spill is the main reason why the total volume of product spilled in the NWT is much higher in 2023 than in 2022.

This spill was a release of mine impacted water from within the boundaries of a containment pond intended for the treatment of impacted water. As a result, this spill did not impact the receiving environment.

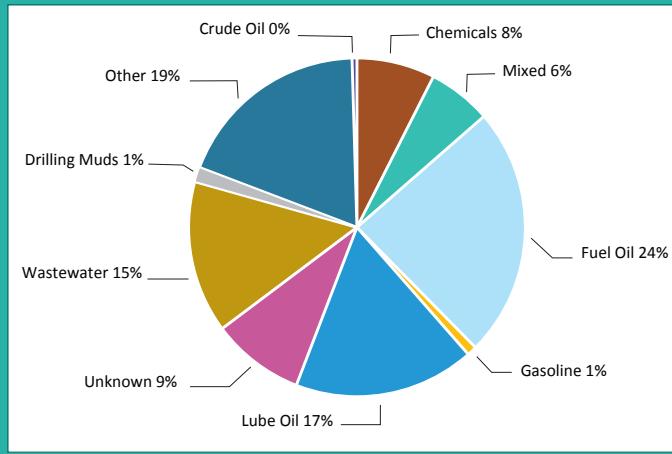
Spill entries with an unknown volume are registered as zero litres in the summarized data. As a result, several product categories in Table 1 are reported as zero litres though some spills of unknown volume were reported for these categories.

Due to wildfires in 2023, there were many reported spills of unknown volume at wildfire-impacted properties. Most notably, in Enterprise, located in the South Slave region, 19 spills of unknown volume were reported as a result of wildfire-impacted properties.

There were also two reported spills of gasoline in 2023, both with unknown volumes.

Figure 3 shows the number of spills reported in 2023 in each product category and Table 1 summarizes the total volume of product spilled in each category.

Figure 3 – Number of spills by product category in 2023



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

Table 1 – Comparison of volume (L or kg) of product spilled by product category in 2022 and 2023

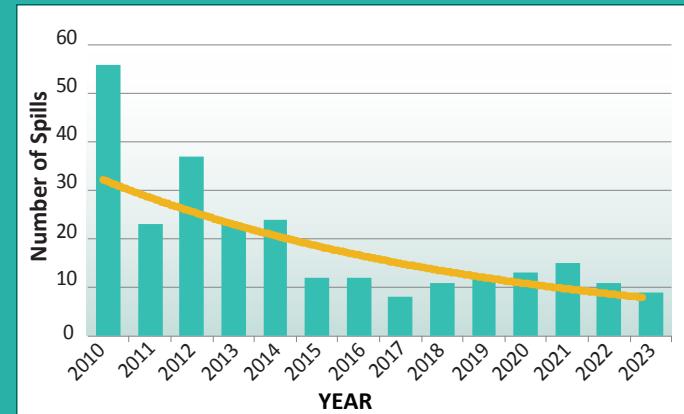
	2023	2022
Other	456,007,614	67,357
Wastewater	855,896	2,636,673
Drilling Muds	24,080	0
Fuel Oil	7,302	40,085
Lube Oil	5,224	6,146
Chemicals	3,483	42,335
Unknown	297	12,655
Mixed Load	10	132
Crude Oil	0.5	0
Gasoline	0	58,149
Waste Oil	0	0
Natural Gas	0	0
Total	456,903,906.5	2,863,532

Residential oil tank spills

Since the release of the *Homeowners' Guide to Oil Tanks* and the requirement for new oil tanks to be double walled in 2010, the number of spills of fuel oil reported from residential oil tanks (defined as tanks under 1,136 litres) has followed a continuous downward trend.

The *Homeowners' Guide to Oil Tanks* was developed to inform individual homeowners and commercial building and property owners of the potential environmental and financial liabilities associated with an oil spill. It also provides some simple, practical steps that can minimize the chances of an oil spill.

Figure 4 – Number of spills from residential oil tanks



For more information and records related to individual spills, please contact:

Environmental Protection and Waste Management Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Telephone: (867) 767-9236 Ext. 53176
Email: Environmental_protection@gov.nt.ca