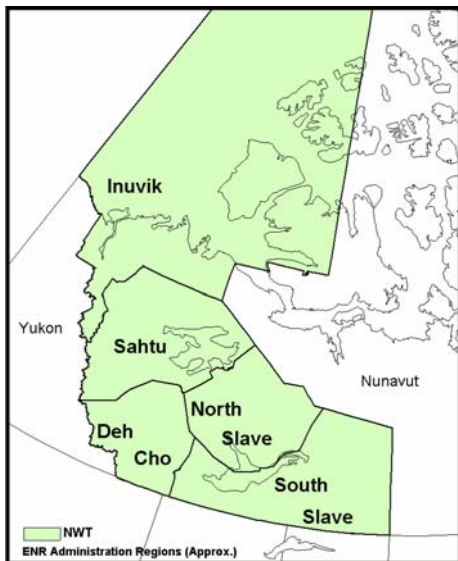


Spills in the Northwest Territories 2005



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 2005.

- 429 spills were reported in 2005, 149 less than 2004!
- Over half (55%) of reported spills were less than 100 litres.
- 50% of the spills reported were in the North Slave Region.
- The petroleum and mining industries were responsible for 56% of the reported spills.
- 32% of the spills reported involved fuel oil.
- Wastewater (mine tailings, sewage, produced water) continues to top the list at 1.5 million litres spilled.

WHERE DID THE SPILLS OCCUR?

Fifty percent (50%) of the spills reported last year occurred in the North Slave region, mostly due to mining activity. Inuvik followed with 26%, Sahtu (12%), South Slave (8%) and Deh Cho (4%). The North Slave had a substantial decrease in the number of spills reported from a year earlier. Reporting protocols implemented for the mineral, oil and gas exploration and development sectors are reducing the number of smaller spills being reported. Figure 1 below shows the number of reported spills by region between 2000 and 2005.

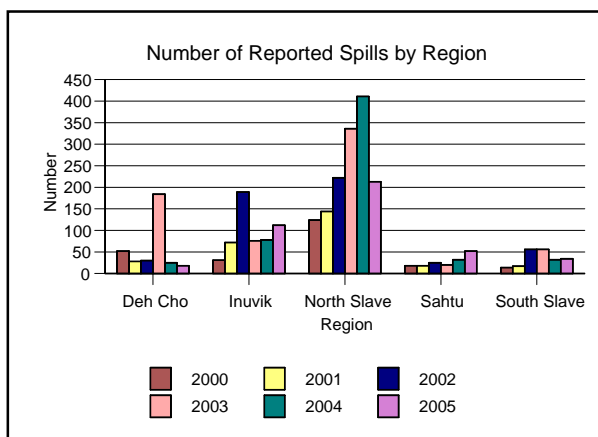


Figure 1

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE?

Figure 2 indicates that the mining and petroleum sectors were responsible for the majority of spills (56%) reported last year. This is generally due to diligent reporting by industry. The mining sector accounted for 32% of reported spills, down from 56% in 2004. Most of these spills occurred in the North Slave Region. The petroleum industry followed with 24% of reported spills, up from 16% in 2004. Government (including all federal, territorial and municipal governments and crown corporations) accounted for 17% of all reported spills.

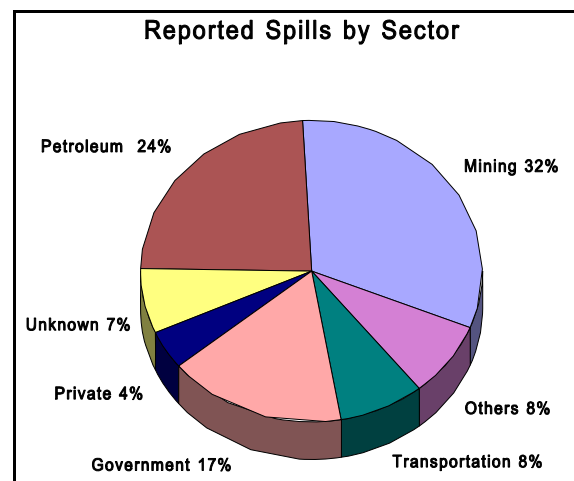


Figure 2

“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 32% 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 gone down to 28%, from 46% 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 15% of reported spills.

Chemicals made up 12% of the total number of spills reported. The most commonly spilled chemical was antifreeze or glycol-based products from vehicles.

Since there was only one reported natural gas spill in 2005, it has been grouped with the 'Other' category.

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

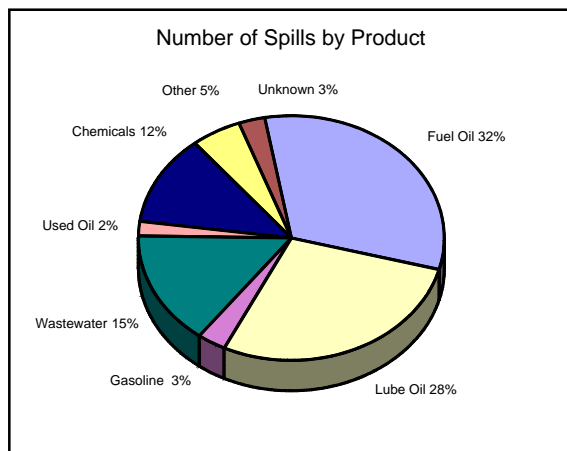


Figure 3

HOW MUCH WAS SPILLED?

	2005	5-Year Average (2000 – 2004)
Wastewater	1,487,019	1,890,844
Fuel Oil	128,733	58,467
Other (crude oil, drill mud)	113,084	38,711
Lube Oil	25,551	22,986
Chemicals	4,387	32,256
Used Oil	825	2,097
Gasoline	567	6,944
Unknown	11	210
Natural Gas ^{1,2}	5,000 m ³	236,413 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-five percent 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 have increased slightly from last year.

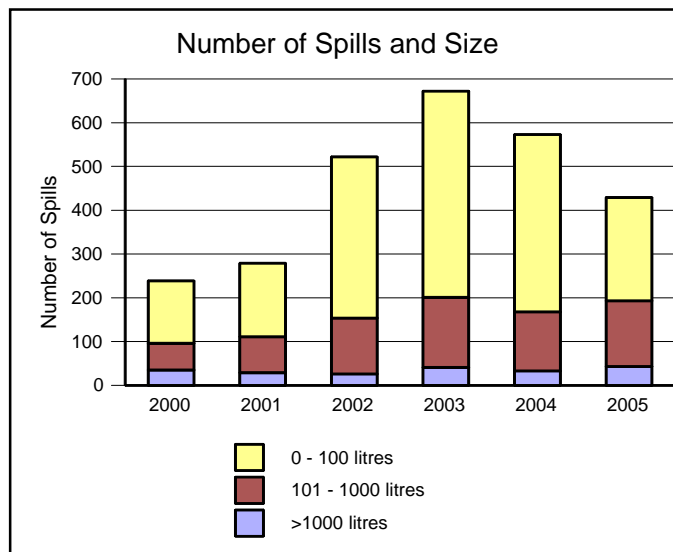


Figure 4

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

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*