

## Columbia Fuels Goldstream River FAQs

### 1. WHAT HAPPENED?

On Saturday April 16, a truck carrying fuel was involved in an accident on the Malahat Highway near Goldstream Park. The tank carrying fuel ruptured and spilled the contents into a ditch along the highway. The gasoline and diesel flowed through a culvert beneath the highway that discharged into the Goldstream River. Approximately 42,000 L of gasoline and 600 L of diesel were released from the truck. While some of the fuel was recovered with vacuum trucks at the spill site and during the remedial excavation at the road side, fuel did enter the river which flowed into the estuary and Saanich Inlet.



### 2. WHAT WAS DONE TO PREVENT FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AFTER THE INCIDENT OCCURRED?

Emergency services (the Langford Fire Department) and Columbia's Emergency Responder, Quantum, were called to the site. Immediate actions were taken to prevent any remaining product from entering the river and clean-up activities began. Booms were placed in the river to absorb any fuel that was released; any residual fuel that could be accessed was actively removed over the following days. A marine responder searched the inlet and estuary for signs of visible gasoline and no recoverable volumes were found.



### 3. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FUEL IN THE RIVER?

Gasoline evaporates and mixes with water quickly as compared to other oil products. Within hours or days of the spill most of the gasoline evaporated or was dispersed by the river. After the accident it was noted that the fuel released into the river had an immediate effect upon the wildlife in and around the river. Unfortunately some fish and other organisms within the river did not survive the initial spill; however, no further mortalities were discovered in the river or inlet in the following weeks and months since the accident.



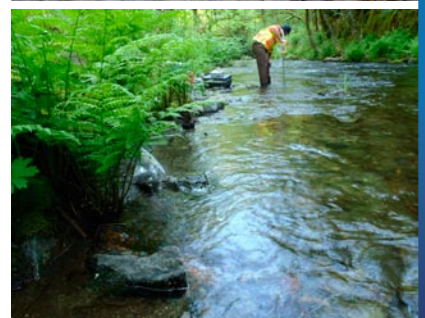
### 4. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SINCE THE INCIDENT?

Monitoring of fuel component concentrations at the river and spill site has been done every week and will continue until we can be assured that the river will not be further impacted.

Any residual fuel under the road near the spill site is currently being monitored via groundwater investigation wells on a regular basis. An assessment program has delineated the extent of the impacts. Columbia Fuels is installing an on-site treatment system to address the residual fuel under the road.



The river and estuary are being monitored to determine if the ecosystem is recovering fully. Experts in biology, traditional ecological knowledge, and fisheries are contributing to the program and are regularly providing input.



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### 5. WILL THE ECOSYSTEM AROUND THE GOLDSTREAM RIVER RECOVER?

The ecosystem in and around the river was damaged but will recover. Almost immediately after the spill species began to return to the river including fish, mammals, insects and birds. While recovery to before-spill conditions has not yet been achieved, positive trends continue which indicate that recovery is occurring on a scale of months rather than years. A long term monitoring plan is being developed to assure the health of the river in the years to come.

### 6. ARE FISH AND SHELLFISH HARVESTED FROM THE RIVER AND ESTUARY SAFE TO EAT?

Yes; tissue samples were collected shortly after the spill and again in May and July. While gasoline components were detected in one of the samples immediately after the spill, the subsequent sampling in May and July showed no detectable levels of these components. As well, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency also assessed shellfish samples and determined no detectable effects resulting from the spill.

### 7. WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Monitoring will continue at the Goldstream River and spill site. A working group was formed that includes First Nations representatives. The working group also includes representatives from the BC Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Columbia Fuels, third party environmental consultants, and the Goldstream Hatchery. This group will continue to review the proposed next steps and ensure that the interests of all parties are considered while the Goldstream River continues to make a rapid recovery. Sampling equipment located around the river will continue to be used to monitor this progress and results will be communicated quickly to all stakeholders.

### 8. WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Stakeholder representatives, contractors and consultants are present around the site. To ensure their safety, please use extra caution while in the area by driving safely and respecting posted traffic signs. Anyone wishing to be involved in monitoring and remediation activities is asked to contact Columbia Fuels. Please email: [malahat@columbiafuels.com](mailto:malahat@columbiafuels.com) or call the Hotline: 250.361.3611. The number of volunteers needed will vary depending on the work involved but anyone who contacts us will receive a response.

### 9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can call or email Columbia Fuels for further information at 250.391.3611 or [malahat@columbiafuels.com](mailto:malahat@columbiafuels.com).

