

Highway Maintenance Specification Sections

7-780 Highway Incident and Vandalism Response

Available at:

[http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/BCHighways/contracts/maintenance/Schedule\\_21\\_Maintenance\\_Specifications.pdf](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/BCHighways/contracts/maintenance/Schedule_21_Maintenance_Specifications.pdf)

5.16 Highway Incident and Vandalism Response

Highway incident and vandalism response activities include responding to motor vehicle accidents, removing vehicles and debris from the road, and assisting with materials spills. Such activities are required to protect the driving public from unsafe road conditions. Emergency response is often an activity coordinated with local law enforcement or other first-response agencies.



Environmental Issues

Primary environmental issues relating to routine highway incident and vandalism response activities are summarized in the following table. It should be noted that site-specific conditions might present additional issues you will need to address in planning and undertaking your works.

Work Activity	Potential Environmental Impacts	Performance Standards and Legal Requirements
Clean-up and Removal of Vehicles and Spilled Materials	May introduce deleterious substances to a watercourse	No release of any substance that could be deleterious (toxic) to fish or fish habitat ( <i>Fisheries Act</i> , Sections 34(1) and 36(3)).
	May contaminate surface waters, groundwater, and soils through improper storage or disposal of abandoned vehicles or materials	Reporting of any polluting substance spills ( <i>Environmental Management Act</i> , Section 79(5)) and disposal of all waste materials in accordance with the Act ( <i>Environmental Management Act</i> , Waste Disposal Regulation).  Removal of abandoned vehicles and things in an appropriate manner ( <i>Transportation Act</i> ).



Environmental Best Practices

The following BPs are provided as guidelines to help you ensure your routine works are completed in compliance with the performance standards and environmental legislation. Please note that the general BPs provided apply for most work activities within this category; if BPs specific to the activity are available they are also noted below.

## Highway Incident and Vandalism Response

### Regulatory Agency Contact

- Coordinate response with regulatory agencies, police and the Province in accordance with your established protocols.

### Spill Response

- As part of your responsibility to contain spills on highways in conjunction and cooperation with regulatory agencies, police authorities and the Province:
- Prevent all potentially harmful materials from entering into road drains and watercourses. Block road drains and construct a containment cell around the spill. Deploy spill kits.
- Apply containment devices as quickly as possible.
- Collect any waste material and dispose of in an approved manner.
- Sweep up contaminated absorbents; don't flush materials into roadside ditches.
- Any soils that have been contaminated by a highway accident may need to be excavated from the site and disposed of in accordance with provincial and federal waste management regulations.
- Ensure that hazardous materials use, storage and disposal is in accordance with the information contained in their Material Safety Data Sheets.
- If you are responding to a highway incident that resulted in the disturbance of soils in an area where there is a chance that sediment could enter a watercourse, install appropriate temporary sediment control devices (e.g., silt fence).

### Materials Management

- Prevent spilled materials and debris from entering into road drains and watercourses during clean-up activities.
- Remove materials to an appropriate storage or disposal site.
- In the case of abandoned vehicle removal, take care to ensure that potentially harmful materials (anti-freeze, gasoline, motor oil, etc.) are contained and prevented from contaminating soils and ground and surface waters. Ensure that the vehicle is transported to an appropriate storage or disposal facility.



### Key Information Sources

The documents and websites listed below are recommended resources for highway incident and vandalism response activities. They can provide examples of existing protocols and management strategies, as well as additional information on specific operational BPs (e.g., erosion and sediment control techniques).

### Emergency Contacts

MoE's Environmental Emergency Management Program can be contacted through the **BC Provincial Emergency Program (PEP)** at 1-800-663-3456.

The Canadian Transport Emergency Centre of the Department of Transportation (CANUTEC) can be contacted for highway incidents involving Dangerous Goods at 1-613-996-6666 (will accept collect calls).

### MoT Technical Circulars:

There are no relevant Technical Circulars authored to-date for this activity

All Technical Circulars are available at:

[http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/Publications/Circulars/Current\\_technical.asp](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/Publications/Circulars/Current_technical.asp)

### Locally Developed BPs

**(Provide any locally-developed BPs):**

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### Other Resources:

**Emergency Response Guidebook.** 2004. CANUTEC website. Transport Canada.

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/en/guide/guide.htm>

**Provincial Emergency Program.** Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

<http://www.pep.bc.ca/>

**Abandoned Vehicle Process – *Transportation Act*.** Environmental Management Section. Engineering Branch. BC Ministry of Transportation.

<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/hired-equipment/hiredequip.htm/>

Abandoned\_Vehicle\_Process.pdf



### Checklist for Environmental Protection Requirements

- Is your proposed work considered a “routine” maintenance activity? If not, approvals or permits may be required. Contact your local municipal, provincial, or federal regulatory agency staff.
- Has this project been discussed with local environmental regulatory staff? In addition to the BP information presented, other site-specific conditions may apply.
- Have site-specific environmental protection requirements been identified? List below:
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