

## There's Been a Spill, Now What? Legal Requirements for Responding to a Spill – Part 1

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When a contaminant spills into the natural environment, both federal and provincial environmental laws can apply. Regulators can hold each of the site owner, the entity responsible for the spill, and/or the owner of the contaminant responsible for a multitude of actions, including reporting, undertaking clean-up, notifying neighbours, and even paying for all costs associated with the spill. Municipalities may have additional requirements for spill reporting and response. Spills can lead to prosecutions, orders, and civil lawsuits – not to mention reputational risk.

There are important questions that must be immediately considered where there is a spill. What immediate response is required in the moments immediately after the spill? By whom? And, what follow-up responses are required in the coming hours and days? The responses to each of these questions can have significant legal implications.

This presentation is in two parts

**Part I** – What environmental laws govern spills? In this part, we will review the law as it relates to spills in several jurisdictions, including requirements for reporting and to whom, timing, remedial response, and potential liability.

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