

Ghosts of Wabamun

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Mutual Aid Alberta Forum
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What should have been a coordinated and effective response from the start had a fitful, drawn out beginning...

Outline

- The Incident
- The Commission's Objectives
- The major recommendations
- How are we doing today?
- Questions

The Incident



The Incident

- August 3, 2005, 43 rail cars went off the tracks spilling Bunker C oil and pole treating oil into the lake
- The rail line re-opened but oil continued to spread across the lake
- Appropriate response and response equipment arrived days after the initial spill
- A catastrophe for the community and the environment
- Commission established on August 14, 2005

Objectives

- Recommend any changes needed to the Alberta Government's capacity to respond, where industry cannot, to environmental incidents
- Review Alberta Environment's emergency response system in order to identify recommendations for enhancement in preventing, mitigating and responding to these incidents
- Review the provision of information required in a report to Alberta Environment and the associated reporting process regarding the products and substances involved in spills
- Review potential high-risk situations affecting Alberta's lakes, rivers, and other water bodies as part of the Governments overall risk management strategy

Objectives

- Review best practices for preventing, mitigating and responding to these incidents
- Provide advice to the Minister and other Government Ministries on safety and rail transportation issues to assist them in working with the appropriate jurisdictions.

Major Recommendations

- Create a senior agency that is responsible for a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to emergencies and disaster
- Implementing a one-window emergency call centre within the new agency to ensure the right response is triggered as quickly as possible when an incident occurs
- Dedicated emergency support team within Alberta Environment to enhance the technical expertise available during and incident
- Adopt an all-hazards risk management decision-making process

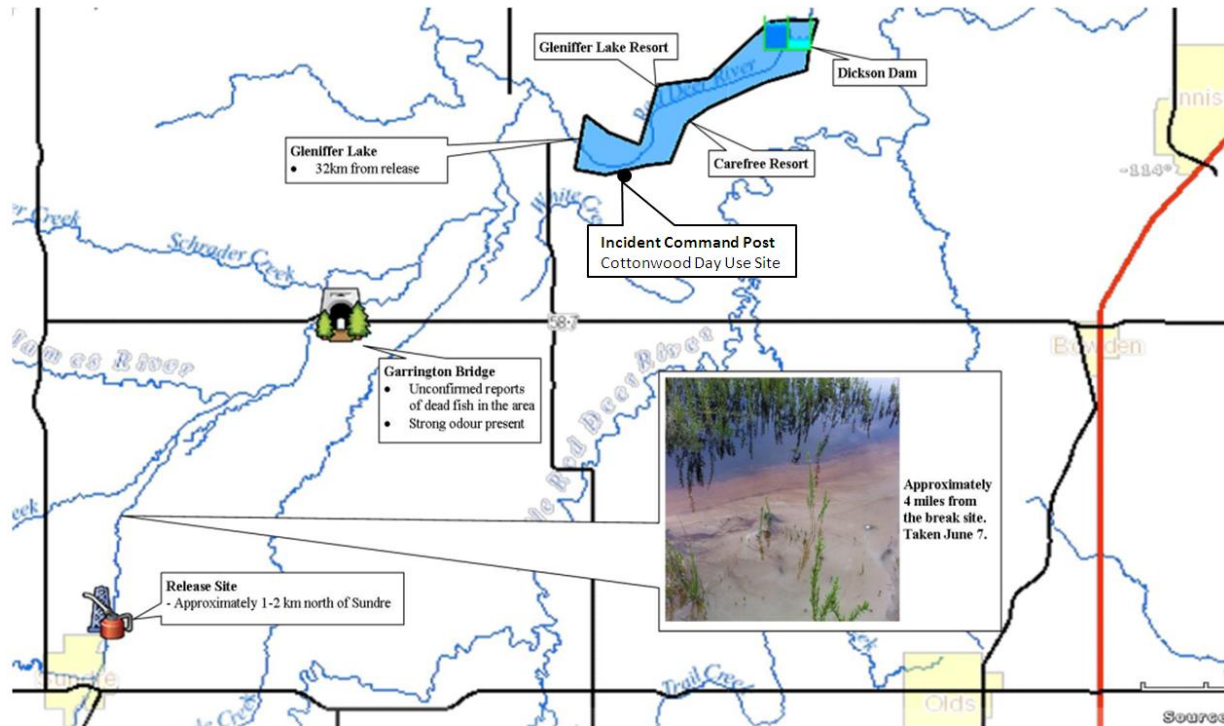
Major Recommendations

- Develop a safety, environmental and security institute to support the public safety system
- Adopt the Incident Command System across Alberta to ensure effective coordination during emergencies
- Significantly enhance the number and effectiveness joint emergency response training and field simulations conducted by industry and government

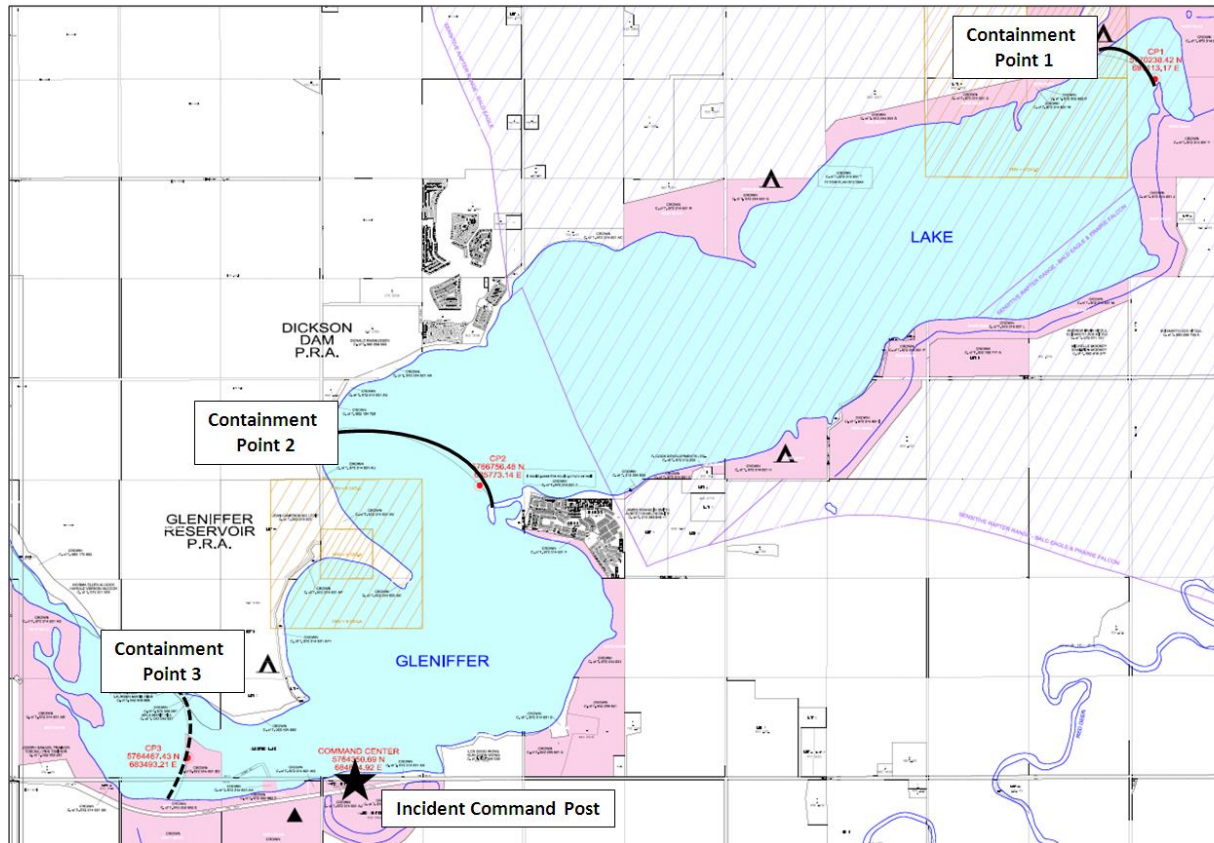
Major Recommendations

- Work through jurisdictional issues ahead of time including those involving First Nations lands and people to ensure these issues do not get in the way of effective emergency response
- Resolve rail transportation issues to ensure risks to the environment are well managed

Gleniffer Lake Incident June 2012



Gleniffer Lake Incident June 2012



Questions
