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Text: A A



HAYLEY COOPER, NEWS1130 PHOTO

Kitsilano Coast Guard would've responded to English Bay fuel spill within minutes: former commander

Hayley Cooper April 11, 2015 4:36 pm

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VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) – Ten minutes or less.

That would have been the response time to the English Bay fuel spill if the Kits Coast Guard was still open, according to its former commander.

"If the call was at 5 o'clock, the crew would have been alerted and because it's in our backyard, it's just a jump out in the fast-response boat and they would've been on scene in minutes," explains Fred Moxy.

In response to the Coast Guard saying 80 per cent of the fuel has been recovered, Moxy says that's highly unlikely.

"Sometimes miracles happen, but the spills that I've been on, usually you can collect about 10 per cent of it, 30 per cent tops. It's either evaporates or goes to the bottom."

Moxy says what makes that figure even harder to believe, is the fact the spill had gone through a complete tide change. "Six and a half

hours of tide either going up or down. So, now you already have all that material in the water moving around to different locations."

He adds the Kits Coast Guard was fully equipped to respond to the spill. "On-site of the station there was 750 feet of boom, on the pollution patrol boat there was 1,000 feet, and up at Fisherman's Wharf, in addition, we used to store a container with another 750 feet of boom."

Moxy says he highly doubts the Conservative government will reverse its decision and re-open the base.

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Thanks, Mr. Harper.

This is exactly the scenario that almost everyone in western Canada was trying to get through the myopic minds of the federal government. I believe Mr. Moxy. He has the experience and the crew would have done the job properly. Now, since we had this disastrous closure thrust upon us by an uncaring intransigent federal government, we are all left to do the cleanup, suffer the damage to our environment, seawalls and just in general, we are left to deal with the federal government's thoughtlessness decision. The overall impact of this will definitely affect how people feel about increasing the amount of potential industrial pollutants sailing into our port. Thanks, Mr. Harper, you sir, can only take credit for the huge mess now, not the so called "adequate response" BS. An election can't happen fast enough!

April 12, 2015 at 6:19 am

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Roland Richards

we are such a wealthy nation, we have a vast amount of resources that are highly desired across the globe, yet unlike other, similar, countries, the only ones reaping the benefits are the corporations, and the people are left with cost cutting left and right so necessary services that support the people such as inspection canada and the coast guard get the axe. it's not right and it's not fair

April 11, 2015 at 10:10 pm



Robert Dixon

Good on Commander Mox. Finally a front line worker giving us some real information as opposed to the smoke-up-the-butt B.S. from the Federal government and Coast Guard management types. And all the hornswoggle dished out to the media regarding 'world class' response. This incident occurred during absolutely ideal weather conditions – couldn't be any better for responding to a spill. If this had happened on a windy, choppy sea-conditions type day, virtually all of the oil would either be on the bottom of English Bay, or on the surrounding beaches. As it was, the minimal tidal action of the inlet moved the oil from one end to the other, and deposited some oil on the north shore and the Stanley Park shore. The response was barely adequate, and we've yet to see what's going to wash up from beneath the waters surface or from the sea bed.

April 11, 2015 at 7:38 pm



Mother Goose

So on one hand we have someone who knows what he's talking about, and on the other, a politician. Oh my, which one to believe? I can't vote for Junior or the Jedi, so do I have to abstain on the next vote?

April 11, 2015 at 6:50 pm



Anon

I see no Jedi on the next ballot. Maybe a Sith.

April 12, 2015 at 9:05 am



John

Kitsilano Coast Guard would have responded within minutes? Yeah, too bad no one knew about it for 6 hours!! Not much of a difference there.

April 11, 2015 at 6:13 pm

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