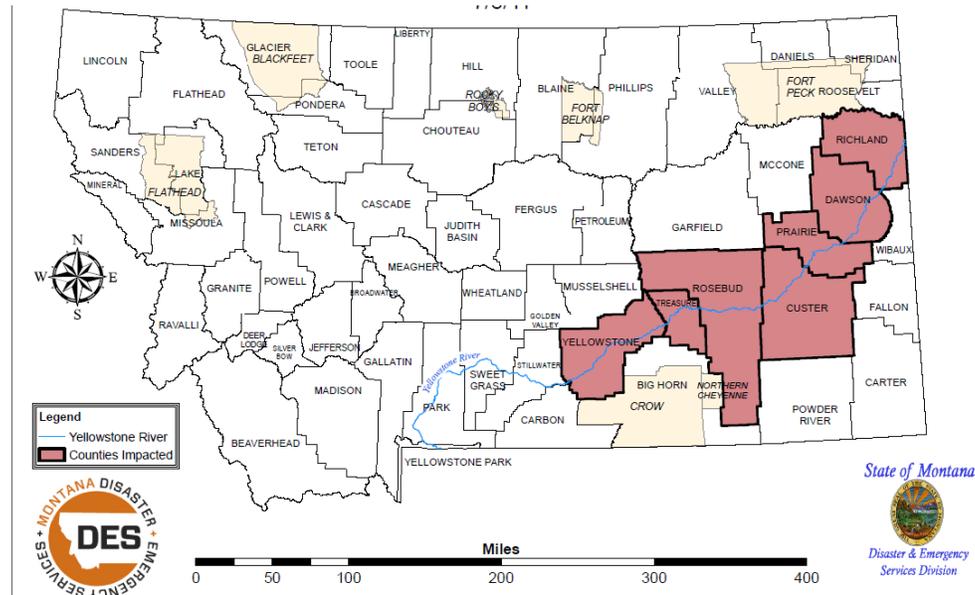


Emergency Exists along the Yellowstone River in Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Prairie, Dawson, Yellowstone and Richland Counties due to Oil Spill (Thursday 7/11/2011 12:15 PM).

Cecil Tharp, Pesticide Education Specialist, Montana State University



A break occurring in the Silvertip pipeline owned by Exxon Mobil released 1,000 barrels of oil into the Yellowstone River approximately 20 miles upstream of Billings, MT. The 70 mile Silvertip Pipeline transports crude from south-central MT to Billings where it supplies a 60,000-barrel-a-day Exxon Mobil refinery and a 61,000-barrel-a-day refinery operated by ConocoPhillips (Bloomberg data). Montana residents along the Yellowstone River near Billings, MT were awaiting federal response to this Oil Spill which occurred at approximately 11:00 PM on Friday, July 1st.

As of July 6th, approximately 440 responders are on the scene conducting cleanup activities. The river has been separated into 4 divisions for cleanup activity, with responders concentrated in division 1 and 2 – from Laurel to Duck Creek Bridge and Duck Creek Bridge to Johnson Lane. The 3rd segment is from Johnson Lane to Miles City and the 4th segment is from Miles City to Glendive.

EPA has issued orders to ExxonMobil including:

1. directing the company to take a number of clean-up activities.
2. directing the company to take a number of restoration activities.

The Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and state and local agencies are all being coordinated by EPA in taking steps to ensure that ExxonMobil address any impacts of this spill.

EPA has released a map which contains both water and air monitoring data at <http://www.epa.gov/yellowstoneriverspill>. This data confirms preliminary reports indicating the water is safe and shows no elevated levels above instrument detection for volatile organic compounds.

Residents should:

- not ingest fish with an oily residue, although no fish consumption advisory has been issued.
- avoid contact with water or sediments that may potentially be contaminated. If exposure has occurred, immediately wash with soap and water (do not use gasoline, solvents, or industrial cleaners). Children should be restricted from playing in or around contaminated areas, and they should not be involved in cleanup efforts.
- report health effects.

Health Effects. Residents along the Yellowstone River should be aware of strong smells which mimic a 'gas-station-like' odor. This odor may be the result of volatile organic compounds such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene. The smell of these compounds does not mean the compound is at a level that would cause long-term health concerns. Over-exposure to these compounds may cause headaches, dizziness, nausea or vomiting. Sensitive individuals should close windows and doors and remain inside, or if driving, turn your air conditioner on and set it to recirculation mode.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: See the EPA news release at [EPA NEWS RELEASE](#)), or see the EPA Yellowstone Oil Spill webpage at (<http://www.epa.gov/yellowstoneriverspill/>).