

Trail Sulphuric Acid Spills

Ministry of Environment Q&A

1. Is there anything else you can tell us about the second incident? For example, what kind of follow up is Min Env doing as a result of not having been notified? Are there any consequences for the parties involved at not having reported it?

As per regular practice, once the emergency response phase is completed and further investigative action required, the Environmental Emergency Program engages the Conservation Officers Service (COS) for investigations into non-compliance. COS is currently following up.

2. We have been hearing reports from the public (unverified) that there is still acid in the road surface, which has been absorbed in some way. There are concerns that the acid is still on the road and continues to do damage. Is this true?

According to the Environmental Emergency Response Officer, the acid will no longer be an issue over this length of time. As part of the response and clean-up, the responders tested the road surface to ensure neutralization of the spilled product.

3. What effect might it have had on the sewers and the nearby river?

None. Neither the acid nor the cleanup materials reached the sewer or near-by river.

4. We need to know more about the effect that driving through the acid has on vehicles and the vehicles' safety.

Acid can erode metal. Regarding what happened in this incident, each vehicle would need to be analysed to discern the effects. This analysis is beyond the scope of the Environmental Emergency Program.