

Follow Up Report: #19-020

January 18, 2019 Emulsion Tote Spill

Description of Incident:

While loading a storage tote containing 1m³ of emulsion onto a boom truck, using a forklift, the tote shifted out of the forks. Due to extreme cold, the forklift hydraulics were unresponsive, and could not prevent the tote from falling. Approximately 100L of emulsion spilled to the ground and froze. No water bodies were impacted by the spill. The nearest water body is A11 which is >390m away. The coordinates of the spill were, 63° 1'36.87"N, 92°12'39.39"W.



Figure 1: Spill at Portal 1 entrance, opposite P3.

Spill Response & Cleanup:

Site personnel shut down equipment and prevented further spillage. The majority of the material was cleaned up immediately with a shovel and placed back into the original tote. The material will be stored until it is reprocessed by the emulsion plant. Snow contaminated with emulsion residue was disposed of as hazmat.

Spill Cause and Corrective Measures

The release occurred due to the failure of forklift hydraulics which were too cold to operate optimally. Operators will ensure equipment has sufficient time to heat hydraulic oil and function correctly, prior to commencing transfers of emulsion, as per standard operating procedures.



Figure 2: Emulsion tote following spill and clean up.



Figure 3: Snow contaminated with emulsion residue disposed of as hazmat.