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Ecology and U.S. Coast Guard responding to oil spill in Puget Sound near Eagle Harbor

(OLYMPIA) – The state Department of Ecology and the U.S. Coast Guard are responding to an oil spill near Eagle Harbor in King County.

The spill was reported to Ecology at 11:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009. State and federal authorities have responders and investigators in route to the site to determine the source, type, and location of the spilled oil and to plan cleanup strategies.

Ecology and U.S. Coast Guard are working to:

- Get boats, oil skimming vessels, oil containment boom and other response equipment in the water.
- Investigate potential sources of the spill.
- Conduct aerial over flights to determine the magnitude of the spill and track its location.
- Identify important fish and wildlife habitat areas.
- Observe and respond to potential shore line and wildlife impacts.

Oil spilled to water typically forms oily patches that spread out quickly. These “oil slicks” can cover many acres of water.

All oil spills cause environmental damage, regardless of size. Oil is toxic to the environment and the damage starts as soon as the oil hits water. A single quart of oil has the potential to foul more than 100,000 gallons of water.

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