What is the difference between a diesel spill and an oil spill?

Diesel	Heavy and medium oils
Diesel is a light oil. It is characterized by its low viscosity and density meaning it floats on water.	Crude oil, fuel oil and related oils are categorized as heavy or medium oils. They are characterized by their high viscosity and density and can sink in water.
Diesel breaks down in the environment. • Small spills on water are usually dispersed by waves, wind and evaporate within days. Diesel can be completely degraded by naturally occurring microbes, under time frames of 1-2 months when there is sufficient oxygen.	Heavy and medium oils rarely break down fully. • Their sticky and viscous nature can result in difficult clean ups on shorelines and long-lasting contamination.

How do you control a diesel spill?

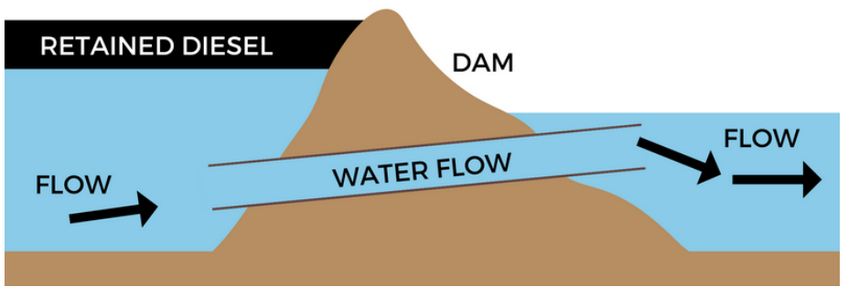
1. Minimize the spread of diesel and the impacted area

Underflow dams are one of the structures being used to minimize the spread of diesel.

An underflow dam is constructed with earth, gravel or other barriers such as sandbags in the case of the Suzanne River.

The dam will contain free floating diesel and allow uncontaminated water to pass through inclined pipes underneath.

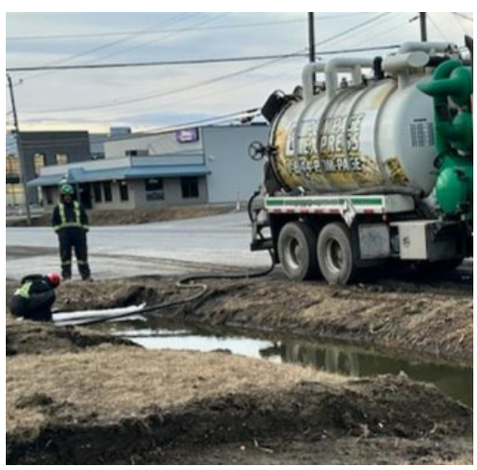
UNDERFLOW DAM



Other control structures being used to slow the spread of diesel include retainment booms which also hold back fuel.

2. Reduce the volume of diesel remaining in the environment

The underflow dams and retainment booms allows our teams to pump free floating diesel and water out of the creek using vacuum trucks. We have also deployed absorption booms which soak up and hold diesel which can then be removed with the boom.



3. Monitoring

Diesel can penetrate shoreline sediments if the soil is not saturated with water. Our team will be sampling shoreline sediments to evaluate the extent of contamination to develop a remediation plan once the free floating diesel has been collected.