



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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Media Advisory

**Update on EPA water quality sampling and
response activity at Lyons, Colorado tanker spill**

Denver (April 29, 2021): EPA continues to support our state and local partners in responding to the April 27 gasoline tanker spill northwest of Lyons, CO. The agency has been evaluating site conditions to ensure the safety of residents in the area and will continue to provide information as we process sampling results.

EPA is aware of concerns regarding potential impacts to private drinking water wells downstream of the spill site. We want to assure members of the community that we are aware of those concerns and are working to address them as quickly as possible.

On April 27, EPA collected water samples from the North St Vrain Creek at multiple locations above and below the spill site. This includes sampling for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX chemicals) and gasoline-range organics (GRO), compounds that occur naturally in gasoline. Preliminary sampling results do not detect contamination in these locations and we do not anticipate impacts to wells at this time.

The BTEX measurements were all below EPA's drinking water standards. The GRO measurement was slightly above the detection limit near the accident but was not detected further downstream. These data suggest the pulse of gasoline that was discharged to the creek has dissipated and there is no indication of a lingering water quality impact to the North Saint Vrain Creek. Additional sampling was conducted on April 28, 2021, and results are expected later today. For more detailed information on EPA's efforts, including a sampling data map, please visit the EPA's response website [Site Profile - Apple Valley Tanker Rollover - EPA OSC Response](#).

EPA (@EPARegion8), Boulder County, Colorado State Patrol (@CSP_News), Longmont Fire Department (LFD), and the Responsible Party's response contractors remain at the scene of the spill, as clean-up efforts continue. The Responsible Party's cleanup crews are coordinating with our state and local partners (CSP, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and LFD) and have begun soil removal adjacent to the highway (near MM 18 on HWY 36). Clean-up and response activities are expected to continue throughout the end of the week and road closures are expected.

A fish kill was also observed in North St. Vrain Creek downstream of the spill site, as a result of the release. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW @COParksWildlife) is assessing the fish kill and other wildlife issues as they arise. Please contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife at LyonsFishInfo@state.co.us with any photos or videos of dead fish, or if you collected and saved dead fish.

Background

At approximately 12:01 pm on April 27, 2021, a tanker truck carrying 8,000 gallons of gasoline was involved in a rollover accident on Highway 36 (near Mile Marker 18) northwest of Lyons, Boulder County, Colorado. The tanker spilled an estimated 500 to 1,000 gallons of gasoline at the site. The spilled fuel traveled west along a drainage ditch and into a culvert that discharges to the North Saint Vrain Creek. It is unknown how much of this release entered the creek.

Multiple Federal, state and local agencies initially responded including CSP, Boulder County Haz Mat, Boulder County Public Health, CDOT (@ColoradoDOT), CPW, EPA,, Lyons Fire Protection District, and Mountain View Fire and Hygiene Fire.

Response crews worked throughout the night of April 27th, collecting gasoline contaminated water, and ensuring additional product did not enter the creek. The source of the spill was contained, however, there may still be a slight intermittent sheen observed on the water in North St. Vrain Creek.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why isn't EPA collecting samples from all private drinking water wells in the area?

At this time the majority of the fuel from the spill has moved downstream. Several samples were taken along the river from the spill site down to Hwy 36 and Hwy 66 intersection on Tuesday. Preliminary sampling results do not detect contamination in these locations. We do not anticipate impacts to wells at this time.

We encourage residents to continue to observe conditions and report any concerns or indications of gasoline contamination please Public Health at 303-441-1241 or email healthows@CouldeCounty.org.

Boulder County Public Health encourages all well owners to test their well water at least annually for coliform and E.coli. For more information on well testing and to find a lab to perform the testing please visit <https://www.bouldercounty.org/environment/water/water-testing/>

What if I find dead fish in the Creek?

Please contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife at LyonsFishInfo@state.co.us with any photos or videos of dead fish, or if you collected and saved dead fish.



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