**Boulder County Hazardous Materials Team**

Waterway Booming Events

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| Guideline Number | 3005 |
| Approved By | Advisory Committee |
| Date | 5-12-2020 |

**Scope:**

This guideline applies to all members of the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Team (BCHMT).

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this guideline is to establish standard procedures for the request of the Booming Trailer and the initial set up.

**Guideline:**

In the event that a Hazardous Material spill occurs in a waterway, the BCHMT has a fully stocked Booming Trailer ready to respond from Longmont Station 5. As this trailer doesn’t have a unit designation, the requesting agency must notify the Dispatch center that they are activating the BCHMT team for a Waterway Booming Event. This will ensure that the crews at Longmont Station 5 bring the trailer.

Prior to the Booming Trailer arriving, the on scene crews should attempt to slow or stop the leak, and place absorbent socks and/or pads in the area of the leak if possible.

Notify Boulder County Public Health of the spill in the water with estimated amount leaked and estimated amount that hasn’t leaked out yet.

Once the Booming Trailer is on scene, please follow the below considerations with the initial setup of the incident.

* Ensure that the material that has spilled is something that is immiscible and will not mix into the water so that it can actually be recovered.
* Be wary of booming too close to water features that are turbulent and cause disruption to the water column as this risks having the material suspended in a manner that allows large quantities of product to travel under the boom skirt.
* Select a site that has good access for recovery equipment (i.e. a vacuum truck) to remove the product that is captured. The most ideal sites for booming operations may not always be those that are closest to the leak.
* Also consider choosing sites that have easy bridge access to allow crews to access both banks of the water channel without having to enter the water which simultaneously creates hazards associated with swift water and hazmat exposure.
* Capturing 100% of a product that is entering a water channel is not possible. Our operation should aim to capture as much as we safely can to limit the environmental damage of a hazmat spill, however, we should also be wary that there are scenarios where our response can make the environmental impacts worse, in which case a booming operation should not be undertaken.