

For Immediate Release | December 30, 2018

IH issues water advisory following semi-trailer accident in North Thompson River

Residents who draw their water from the North Thompson River, between 10 kilometres south of Avola and the confluence of the North Thompson and Clearwater Rivers, are advised to be cautious and check their water for any signs of diesel fuel (sheen or fuel odour) after a semi-trailer crashed into the river south of Avola early Sunday morning.

As a precaution, Interior Health is advising residents who draw water from the North Thompson River **between the spill site, 10 kilometres south of Avola, down through Clearwater to the confluence of the North Thompson and Clearwater Rivers** to be alert for signs of fuel contamination.

The Avola community water system draws from Avola Creek, which is not impacted by this incident.

Residents in the affected area (map attached) should **Not Use** the river water if it smells or tastes like fuel. This means no drinking, showering/bathing or brushing teeth if a fuel odour is detected. Diesel fuel can pose a health risk following ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption.

Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) officials in Vavenby, the nearest community water system downstream from the spill, were notified immediately and the water system has been placed on a **Do Not Use Order**.

The TNRD will be providing bottled water and bulk water at the Vavenby Fire Hall for residents on the Vavenby Community Water System.

Interior Health will continue to work with the TNRD to monitor the Vavenby water system.

The Ministry of Environment is monitoring the situation and working with an environmental consultant who is collecting water samples as part of the remediation plan.

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