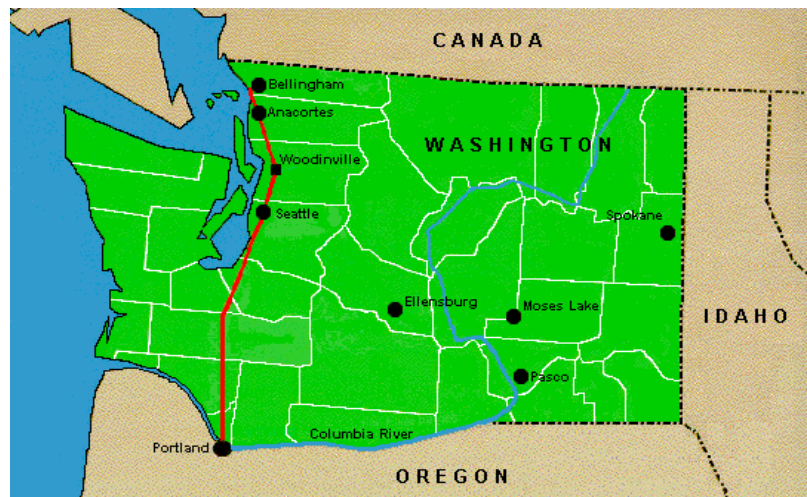


Olympic Pipeline Rupture / Fire and Release to Whatcom Creek

On the afternoon of June 10, 1999, a large gasoline pipeline rupture occurred on the Olympic pipeline in Bellingham, Washington. A short while later about 250,000 gallons of the gasoline exploded and burned for five days. Three people perished in the aftermath. A recently restored salmon run was ecologically devastated and thousands of fish and other animals were killed. Millions of dollars of property damage also occurred. The response involved over 3000 people from dozens of organizations. This presentation will focus on the chain of events leading to and through the initial emergency response, the multi-jurisdictional nature of the response, and a brief review of the cleanup techniques used. The presentation is separated into five sections: Incident Background, Notifications and Initial Response, Emergency Phase, Investigation of Cause, Long Term Cleanup.

The 16 inch Olympic Pipeline stretches from Ferndale, WA to Portland, OR, spanning about 275 miles.



Intensely burning unleaded gasoline damaged part of the water treatment and distribution system for the city of Bellingham.