

Industrial Park: Unreported Spill Discovered in Stormceptor

A routine inspection of a Stormceptor on the grounds of a Southern Ontario municipally-owned hockey arena revealed an astonishing discovery. More than 13 gallons (50 liters) of “mystery oil” was found in the system – and no one knew where the oil had come from. Clearly, there had been an illegal discharge, but no one was taking responsibility.

Total Capture

Luckily for the city, the Stormceptor had captured and contained the oil, preventing an environmental incident. Investigation of the area indicated that none of the oil had escaped into the local environment. Not one drop. Without the Stormceptor, the oil would have run directly into the adjacent creek, a tributary to a major watershed. Oil spills kill fish, waterfowl and plant life and can threaten the integrity of a region’s water.

The Cost of Spills

Hydrocarbon spills and leaks have an enormous impact. Even small releases can contribute to “creeping dead zones” that destroy local ecosystems. In this case, 13 million gallons of water could have been affected and the region’s government imposes environmental penalties of up to \$100,000 per day for unlawful spills and emissions.

City Relieved

Initially, the city had been reluctant to adopt the use of Stormceptors, because of a tightening fiscal budget. But in the end, it decided that Stormceptors and other pollution prevention devices were an important investment in the future health of the community.

According to Regional Stormwater Specialist Brian Lee, the city is “very relieved” that they invested in spill prevention. “If the public’s trust is broken,” notes Lee, “it takes a very long time to earn it back.”

Stormceptor EOS

The Stormceptor EOS (extended oil storage) is a practical “hot spot” system that easily fits within the conveyance infrastructure to capture and store spills. Sites with high spill potential such as gas stations, public works yards, loading docks, ports and other industrial sites use EOS systems to protect against spills and avoid liability. Units are designed to contain from 175 gal. (662 liters) to 7,800 gal. (30,000 liters) and can be customized for diverse site conditions, with flexible configuration and 24/7 monitoring and alarm options.

