

**APPLE VALLEY ROLLOVER INCIDENT**  
**HIGHWAY 36 NORTH ST. VRAIN CREEK**  
**LYONS, CO / EPA REGION 8**  
<https://response.epa.gov/AppleValley>

**MAY 10, 2021**



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## About the Site

At approximately 12 p.m. on April 27, 2021, a tanker truck carrying approximately 8,500 gallons of gasoline was involved in a rollover accident on Highway 36 (near mile marker 18) northwest of Lyons, Boulder County, Colorado.

Lyons and Hygiene Fire Departments, Colorado State Patrol (CSP), Boulder County Haz Mat Authority and Boulder County Road Maintenance quickly responded to secure the spill and prevent further impacts to the North St. Vrain Creek. The tanker spilled an estimated 1,000 – 1,600 gallons of gasoline at the site. An unknown quantity of gasoline entered the North St. Vrain Creek resulting in a fish kill downstream.

EPA, CSP, Boulder County Public Health (BCPH), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and other state and local agencies are overseeing removal of gasoline-contaminated soils and assessment of impacts to the North St. Vrain Creek.

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## Community Concerns

Residents along the river have expressed concerns about impacts to water wells, fish, and wildlife.

EPA's water sampling did not detect a lingering water quality impact to the North St. Vrain Creek. The potential for groundwater impact is low. However, the insurance company for the responsible party is working directly with the residents who would like to have their wells tested.

CPW is assessing the fish kill and other wildlife issues as they arise.

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## Contaminants of Concern

Chemicals in gasoline are considered a contaminant of concern (COC) at the Apple Valley Rollover Site. COCs are chemicals that need to be addressed by a cleanup action because they are a potential threat to human health or the environment.

Gasoline is a complex mixture that contains more than 150 chemicals including: benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene

(BTEX chemicals). Generally, EPA's primary COCs during oil and gasoline spills are BTEX, due to impacts to water quality. EPA also assessed for gasoline-range organics (GRO), a range of compounds that occur in gasoline.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a series of summaries about contaminants called ToxFAQs. You can find ToxFAQs on BTEX and GRO at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs).

EPA has also posted the ATSDR Gasoline Public Health factsheet to the Apple Valley emergency response website at: <https://response.epa.gov/AppleValley>.



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## Is my Water Well Safe?

Yes. The primary concern is surface water quality and aquatic life impacts, not groundwater. On April 27 and 28, EPA collected water samples from the North St. Vrain Creek at multiple locations above and below the spill site. BTEX measurements were all below EPA's drinking water standards. The GRO measurement near the accident was slightly above the detection limit but was not detected further downstream.

EPA currently does not anticipate impacts to wells, as data suggest the pulse of gasoline discharged to the creek has dissipated. There is no indication of a lingering water quality impact to the North St. Vrain Creek.

As noted above, the insurance company for the Responsible Party is working directly with the residents who would like to have their wells tested. Please visit EPA's Apple Valley website by clicking [here](#) or email us for contact information.



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## Is it Safe to use St. Vrain Water for Irrigation?

Yes. While there is residual gasoline trapped in the sediments along the bank of the creek, and whiffs of sheen, can be observed upon stirring the sediments, EPA anticipates this residual will dissipate over the next few weeks. It is important to note, this residual is slight, and is minimally detectable to undetectable, in water quality sampling.

On April 28, EPA collected sediment samples at three locations along the creek. The BTEX and GRO measurements were all at background levels.

EPA will continue to monitor evaporation of the residual gasoline over the next few weeks. If you are concerned about residual sheen or odors, please contact the EPA.

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## Next Steps

Contaminated soils are being transferred off-site for disposal and this work is expected to continue through May 14, 2021.

Once the contaminated soils are removed, response contractors will begin restoration of the impacted properties. EPA will continue to monitor evaporation and dissipation of any residual gasoline in the creek.

Visit <https://response.epa.gov/AppleValley> for the latest updates on the spill response.



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## Community Resources

CPW is assessing the fish kill and other wildlife issues. Please email [LyonsFishInfo@state.co.us](mailto:LyonsFishInfo@state.co.us) with any images of dead fish, or if you collected and saved dead fish.

We encourage residents to continue to observe conditions and report any concerns to EPA or Boulder County Public Health. <https://www.bouldercounty.org/environment/water/stormwater-quality-protection/>.

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## Contact Information

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