

Biography of Merv Fingas



Merv Fingas is a scientist working on oil and chemical spills. He was Chief of the Emergencies Science Division of Environment Canada for over 30 years and is currently working on research in Western Canada. Mr. Fingas has a PhD in environmental physics from McGill University, three masters degrees; chemistry, business and mathematics, all from University of Ottawa. He also has a bachelor of science in Chemistry from Alberta and a bachelor of arts from Indiana. He has more than 850 papers and publications in the field. Merv has prepared 7 books on spill topics and is working on 2 others. The sixth book, *Oil Spill Science and Technology*, was published in 2012 as was the seventh book, a new version of the *Basics of Oil Spill Cleanup*. He has served on two committees on the National Academy of Sciences of the United States on oil spills including the recent 'Oil in the Sea'. He is chairman of several ASTM and inter-governmental committees on spill matters. Importantly, he was the founding chairman of the ASTM sub-committee on in-situ burning and chairman of oil spill treating agents and another on oil spill detection and remote sensing, positions he holds today. In 2010, he testified before a U.S. congressional committee on oil spills in conjunction with the Gulf spill. He was one of three scientists working with U.S. NOAA to examine the mass balances of the Gulf spill.

Dr. Fingas began his career in 1974 working for Environment Canada as a scientist working on oil and chemical spills. Dr. Fingas worked in general coordination on the program and specifically managed a number of sub-projects including those on chemistry, oil behaviour, remote sensing, spill tracking and spill treating agents. Dr. Fingas continued in many of these research fields until today. His specialities include; oil chemistry, spill dynamics and behaviour, spill treating agents remote sensing and detection, spill tracking, in-situ burning, and the fate and behavior of oil spills. He continues research and writing on these topics to this day.

Dr. Fingas began his career in 1974 working for Environment Canada as a scientist working on oil and chemical spills. His first tasks were largely to work on the *Beaufort Sea Studies*, a multi-million dollar joint industry-government program to develop oil spill readiness for the Canadian Beaufort Sea. His role in these studies was to coordinate chemical and physical studies and to prepare overview documents. With the completion of these studies a new study of large magnitude, the *Arctic and Marine Oil Spill Program*, was founded in 1977. Dr. Fingas, one of the founders of this program, worked in general coordination on the program and specifically

managed a number of sub-projects including those on chemistry, oil behaviour, remote sensing, spill tracking and spill treating agents. Dr. Fingas continued in many of these research fields until today. His specialities include; Arctic oil spills, oil chemistry, spill dynamics and behaviour, spill treating agents remote sensing and detection, spill tracking, in-situ burning, and chemical counter-terrorism. He continues research on these topics to this day.