



Firefighters' response to the diesel spill.

## The diesel leak from Engolasters spills more than 4,000 liters

Firefighters are working on some hypotheses that they prefer not to enter into until they have the official results

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, appeared before yesterday afternoon to report on the diesel spill that occurred last night in Escaldes-Engordany, which has affected the final stretch of the Madriu River. According to Casal, the spill comes from a building located on the Engolasters road, where a request was made to load a tank

of diesel for winter heating. The operator in charge of the recharge is being investigated, and a process has been opened to clarify the causes of the incident. The minister pointed out that the spill was considerable, with a load of 4,440 liters of diesel, but it has not yet been possible to determine exactly how much has reached the river. «This is an important affectation that will have to be evaluated in depth», he pondered.

Casal explained that the first measures to contain the spill were taken that same night, with the installation of an inflatable barrier (watergate) to prevent the hydrocarbon from spreading downstream, and the use absorbent blankets at various points in the water course. «FEDA has also been informed, which has stopped the Engolasters lake turbine to prevent the hydrocarbon from diluting even more», detailed Ca-

sal. In addition, the Catalan Water Agency and the Andorran Fishing Federation were notified to activate protective measures, especially for fishermen who practice no-kill fishing.

Firefighters, alerted by neighbors around 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday due to the strong smell of diesel, located the source of the spill in one of the buildings located on the Pont de la Tosca. The Municipality of Escaldes immediately notified Capesa,



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Image of the Madriu river, last Wednesday morning.

the company in charge of water treatment in the parish. The director of the company, Eduard López, explained to EL PERIÒDIC that around midnight he received the notice of the diesel leak, which is why he traveled to the Madriu valley to observe what was happening. As he clarified, this leak has not reached the point where the water that supplies the Municipality of Escaldes-Engordany is taken.

Although López assured that there is a hydrocarbon detector in the dam, he made the decision to order an analysis from the company Biotop to confirm that this water was not contaminated by hydrocarbons. According to the laboratories, these analyzes have already been carried out and the results are

about to be known by the water company. In addition, both Capesa and Biotop explained that one of the analyzes that has been requested is related to fuels, which must be analyzed outside the Principality, which is why they will take a little longer.

On the other hand, the Municipality wanted to support this medium in which this leak is not affecting the faucets of the sources of the Caldes project, since these were temporarily stopped. They also explained that the water in the bathtubs continues to be active due to the fact that they work with drinking water and thermal water, waters that, as Capesa announced, would not be mainly affected by the incident. ●

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