



September 28, 2008

Hazardous material spilled on I-220 cleared

From Staff Reports

Shreveport firefighters and hazardous materials crews spent just over four hours mitigating a chemical spill on Interstate 220 eastbound at Interstate 20 late Friday.

Firefighters were sent to the area at 9 p.m. after a tractor-trailer truck spilled a drum containing a corrosive chemical called ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, according to a release from the Fire Department. The truck had a flat bed trailer carrying individual containers of the chemical, with each container holding around 300 gallons. The chemical also is flammable and has some associated health risks.

The spill occurred as the truck merged onto I-220 from I-20 and the driver noticed one of the straps securing the load coming loose, the release said.

"As the truck slowed down, one of the containers came off the truck and ruptured on impact," the release said.

Shreveport Fire Department Chief Safety Officer Scott Wolverton said the chemical was contained in the area where it spilled and created no hazard for the public or for Cross Lake. He said a privately contracted clean-up company was summoned from Texarkana, Texas, to clean up the spill. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana state police also responded, he said.

The incident was declared over at 1:18 a.m. Saturday, dispatchers said.



Crashed tanker fire contaminates wetland

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Story Published: Jun 9, 2007 at 9:10 AM PDT

Story Updated: Jun 10, 2007 at 1:08 PM PDT

By Matt Markovich

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GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY - A fiery crash of a track trailer rig carrying gasoline and diesel closed State Route-8 for several hours early Saturday morning, according to the Washington State Patrol. The twin tanker crashed near milepost 10, just east of McCleary at the Grey's Harbor County and Thurston County line.

Troopers said driver was heading west toward Aberdeen when he veered off the road to the right. State troopers said the driver then over-corrected to the left.

"It looks like the trailer, when it left the roadway to the right had flipped onto its side and continued down the roadway," said Trooper Brian George.

With the rear trailer skidding on its side, the entire rig crashed into a culvert in the median and burst into flames.

The driver escaped without injuries. The truck, which is owned by Pettit Oil, was hauling 7,000 gallons of gasoline and 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

The flames were so hot that they melted the truck and its trailer. Crews from the McCleary Volunteer Fire Department managed to keep the flames from melting the road.

Unfortunately, the flaming gas flowed through a culvert underneath the eastbound lanes and into a wetland that feeds Mox Chehalis Creek, a seasonal habitat for Cutthroat trout.

Pettit Oil hired a contract cleanup crew from NRC Environmental to start the nasty job of skimming the gas and oil mix from a waterway beside the highway. State ecologists believe most of the contamination can be cleaned up, but not all.

"One problem with this type of product, it also dissolves into the water column so the booms and the absorbent materials won't collect that," said Bob Warren with Washington State Department of Ecology.

It's been a bad week for Pettit Oil, the owners of the truck. On Tuesday, an SUV crossed into the path of another Pettit Oil tanker truck near Brinnon in Jefferson County, killing the SUV driver. That truck was loaded with 11,000 of gasoline, but did not catch fire.

State troopers are still investigating the cause of the crash.

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4 hurt, chemical spilled in I-95 crash in Harford

By Liz F. Kay

October 5, 2008

Four people were injured early yesterday morning when a tractor-trailer hit another vehicle, overturned and spilled acetone on southbound Interstate 95 in Harford County, prompting road closures during the cleanup and investigation, according to Maryland State Police.

Shortly after 2 a.m., the driver of a pickup truck slowed nearly to a stop near the scene of an earlier crash on southbound I-95 south of Route 22, according to a news release.

A southbound tractor-trailer rear-ended the pickup and overturned onto the guardrail in the center median, according to the release.

Investigators observed leaking fluid and, based on the placards on the trailer, identified it as acetone, a flammable chemical. Firefighters contained the spill, and Maryland Department of the Environment personnel determined that about 5 gallons had leaked.

A passenger in the pickup, 35-year-old Deanna Moyorga of Edgewood, was flown to Maryland Shock Trauma Center with critical injuries. The driver, Juan Moyorga, 36, also of Edgewood, and another passenger, Andreas Juarez, 62, of Hyattsville, were taken to Maryland Shock Trauma Center with serious injuries.

The tractor-trailer driver, Carroll Quarles, 56, of Baltimore was taken to Harford Memorial Hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening.

I-95 was closed in both directions until about 10:45 a.m. for the cleanup and investigation, according to police.



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Acid spill teams Haz-Mat & industries



Photo special to The DPA Members of the McMinn County Haz-Mat team unload sodium bicarbonate last week to help neutralize battery acid spilled from a wrecked big rig. The baking soda substance was donated by J.M. Huber Corp.

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Acid spill teams Haz-Mat & industries

Local News
ryan harris

Staff Writer

The typical swarm of emergency vehicles gathered last week on Interstate 75 after a big rig hauling large batteries wrecked and splashed acid on the roadway.

The red lights of fire trucks and ambulances flashed, and sirens blared from police cars.

But amid the chaos was an unlikely responder to the emergency: Members of local industry.

The McMinn County Hazardous Material team called nearby AbitibiBowater, which has its own critical response team. A group from the paper mill arrived at the acid spill near Calhoun in moments to help emergency workers.

Then there was fear the McMinn County Haz-Mat team would run out of sodium bicarbonate, the baking soda substance needed to neutralize the acid. Officials at J.M. Huber in Etowah were called to bring the needed chemical to the crash site. The company makes silicates used in products such as toothpastes.

Other industries that help with hazardous materials calls include the Olin chlorine plant in Bradley County.

"Industry has been very, very supportive of our team," McMinn County Haz-Mat Chief Shane Jenkins said. "It's a great relationship."

The partnership between industry and emergency responders is a two-way street.

Jerry Miller, a safety coordinator at J.M. Huber, said he recalls a truck spilling diesel at the plant a few years ago. The McMinn County Haz-Mat team helped with the cleanup.

"The least we can do is help out when they need it," said Miller. "It's good to be able to help the community anyway you can, and this is a small way we can help."

Being in an area rich with chemical-based industries can create challenges for hazardous material teams if one of the companies has a spill. But Jenkins said the benefits of having the companies are far greater, especially with infrastructure related emergencies such as the interstate acid spill.

Jenkins said cleaning up the acid Thursday would have been difficult without industrial support. He said the McMinn County Haz-Mat team usually carries 200 pounds of sodium bicarbonate on its truck. The team needed an additional 400 pounds from J.M. Huber just to neutralize the area where the big rig crashed into a stand of trees along the interstate.

"Those large truck batteries busted with such force that it blew acid everywhere," Jenkins said. "Every where you put pH paper, it turned red."

Industrial officials say they are glad to assist with local emergencies. Many of the regional companies also employ members of McMinn County's volunteer hazardous materials team.

Larry Vest, manager of safety and health at AbitibiBowater, said helping with local emergencies is a good use of industrial resources.

"We know they will respond when we need extra resources, and we are glad to return the favor," he said.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Chemical spill causes traffic delays, strong odor

By Stephanie Detillier

October 2, 2008 | 3:10 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA - Southbound traffic on Providence Road slowed to a halt Thursday afternoon when a flatbed truck spilled more than 15 gallons of concrete sealer.

A Nu-Way Concrete Forms truck was transporting 76 five-gallon buckets of concrete sealer when its driver slammed on the brakes after the vehicle in front of him came to a sudden stop, said Division Chief Dean Martin of the Columbia Fire Department.

When the truck's load shifted, at least three buckets fell onto Providence Road at the Mick Deaver Drive intersection near Memorial Stadium. About 12 additional buckets were damaged and began leaking, Martin said.

"The chemical poses a slight hazard when spilled indoors because of the strong chemical smell," Martin said. "It can be slightly flammable but in this situation it presented no hazards."

The Columbia Fire Department received a call about the spill at 12:03 p.m. Personnel from the Missouri Department of Transportation, Columbia Police Department, MU Environmental Health and Safety and MU Police Department assisted firefighters with the cleanup and traffic control.

Both southbound lanes of Providence were closed for nearly an hour, from Carrie Frankie Drive to Mick Deaver Drive. The right southbound lane remained closed for an additional hour.

Nu-Way Concrete Forms sent workers to help transfer the sealer from the damaged buckets into other barrels.

The Fire Department called Chemtrec, a hazardous materials communication center, to determine how to proceed in the cleanup. Sand was poured on top of the spill areas to absorb the slick sealer.

Martin said the transportation department was monitoring the road conditions but vehicles shouldn't have problems passing over the sand and sealer mixture.

Martin said he expected that the clumps of mixture would be removed from the road by Thursday evening. Nu-Way will be responsible for disposing of the material.

"It's not just something that can be thrown in a dumpster."



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Chemical Spill Sends Three To Hospital

Posted: 5:43 PM Sep 24, 2008

Last Updated: 6:12 PM Sep 24, 2008



Some workers at a plant had to be evacuated Wednesday afternoon after a truck spilled chemicals nearby.

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Firefighters say a truck bringing ammonium hydroxide to the Martek plant in Winchester shifted some of its load. That caused about 20 gallons of the chemical to spill on the ground.

Three people who were nearby at the time inhaled some of the fumes and were taken to the hospital as a precaution.

It took crews about three hours to clean up the mess but everything at the plant is now back to normal.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wvt.com/news/headlines/29714269.html>

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