



NEWS RELEASE

07-210

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2007

District: 8- INLAND EMPIRE

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INCIDENTS EFFECT MAJOR FREEWAY INTERCHANGE

RIVERSIDE – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) closed the southbound 215 freeway due to a fire during the evening commute hours on Tuesday, June 26th. Although the fire was at an adjacent yard, next to the freeway, the blinding black smoke posed a safety hazard to the motoring public. The closure was lifted after 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening. There was no damage to the freeway that would impact the construction timeline for the \$320 million dollar improvement project-taking place at the interchange and throughout the city of Riverside.

A second incident occurred in the early morning commute hours on Wednesday, June 27th. A big rig was exiting the eastbound 91 freeway onto the southbound 215-connector ramp. The big rig was involved in a traffic collision and as a result, diesel fuel was spilled onto the connector ramp. A full closure of the ramp was necessary to perform the cleanup required. The crash cushion on the connector ramp was damaged and will be replaced prior to the opening of the connector ramp. At this time, it is expected to have the connector ramp reopened within the next couple of hours.

Caltrans would like to remind motorists to always be alert while driving and pay extra attention when going through a construction zone. The configuration and layout of a familiar road can often change throughout the progression of a project. Caltrans asks motorists to please be aware of the construction area and always make a point to ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE.***

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