



CALTRANS COMMUTER ALERT

11-174b

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2011
District: 8 – San Bernardino
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WHAT: FUEL SPILL

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 (1100)

WHERE: STATE ROUTE 38 (POST MILE 23.75)

Incident Overview

Shortly after 10:00 p.m. on September 19, 2011 a tanker truck transporting gasoline overturned on State Highway 38 east of Angelus Oaks. The tank trailer transporting 8200 gallons of gasoline ruptured and a significant portion of the cargo escaped. Emergency crews were able to recover approximately 2200 gallons. Unfortunately approximately 6000 gallons escaped and seeped into the soil on the north side of State Highway 38.

The California Highway Patrol along with firefighters and Hazardous Materials specialists from San Bernardino County Fire Department, Caltrans the US Forest Service and a private hazardous removal company responded to the incident. A swift response kept the fuel from flowing into a nearby creek which feeds into the Santa Ana River.

Initially firefighters were concerned about the possibility that this would ignite a fire below the highway near a local private organizational camp, and ordered the camp to be evacuated as a precautionary measure. San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies were able to safely evacuate the 12 individuals at the camp.

Hazardous Materials specialists and highway officials have begun the removal process and are working 24 hours a day. Officials are also assessing the damage from the gasoline that escaped into the soil. The highway will remain closed to all traffic until the roadway is safe for the motoring public. **The opening of the route is undetermined at this time, however updates will be released on the status of its' reopening when available.**

Traveling to Big Bear

State Highway 38 is closed from Angelus Oaks to Lake Williams.

Motorists and forest visitors traveling to Big Bear need to use State Highway 330 which is accessed from Interstate 210 in Highland, or use State Highway 18 from either San Bernardino or Lucerne Valley.

Barton Flats recreation area can only be accessed from Big Bear (with reservations only).

The incident is being managed under Unified Command with the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, San Bernardino County Fire Department and the US Forest Service.

Incident Type	Hazardous Materials
Cause	Under Investigation
Date of Origin	Monday September 19th, 2011 approx. 10:00 PM
Location	Highway 38 east of Angelus Oaks
Incident Commander	Unified Command

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