



CALTRANS COMMUTER ALERT

11-174c

Date: Thursday, September 22, 2011

District: 8 – San Bernardino

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WHAT: FUEL SPILL

WHEN: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 011 (1230)

WHERE: STATE ROUTE 38 (POST MILE 23.75)

State Highway 38 remains closed east of Angelus Oaks in the San Bernardino Mountains as a result of the traffic collision involving a fuel truck that resulted in the release of 6,000 gallons of gasoline along the south shoulder of the highway. The route closure duration is undetermined at this time, however it is expected to remain closed over the weekend of September 24.

Hazardous materials contractor Double Barrel Environmental Services is utilizing heavy equipment and working around the clock to remove contaminated soil. San Bernardino County Fire Hazardous Materials officials and Caltrans officials are also assessing the damage to the highway from the gasoline that escaped into the soil. California Department of Fish and Game, the US Forest Service and local water district officials are on scene assisting with efforts to protect waterways and wildlife habitat.

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. The private camp remains closed until San Bernardino Health officials determine it safe for the caretakers to return.

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

Traveling to Big Bear

State Highway 38 is closed from Angelus Oaks to Jenks Lake Road West.

Motorists and visitors traveling to Big Bear and the National Forest need to use State Highway 330 which is accessible 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. At this time, no US Forest Service roads, trails or recreation facilities have been closed as a result of the highway closure.

Incident Background

Shortly after 10:00p.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.

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The California Highway Patrol along with firefighters and Hazardous Materials specialists from San Bernardino County Fire Department, Caltrans the US Forest Service and 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.

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