



Summary

Regional Incident Survey Team (RIST) Report

Southern-1001-Transportation

Regional Incident Survey Teams (RIST)

RISTs gather information for the National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center. RISTs are composed of individuals from around the country who are skilled and experienced in hazardous materials (hazmat) response or experienced in the hazmat industry. RIST members are part of a team invited by a local jurisdiction or state authority to conduct a survey of an incident response of interest and record information from the responder's perspective. In no case is the data intended to be used to criticize or condemn response actions, but rather to share lessons learned and smart practices with other emergency responders who may face a similar response.

Incident Type

Transportation

Container

Insulated MC 307

Hazardous Material

Acrylic acid

Overview

A tanker truck exited a major interstate and overturned on the exit ramp spilling acrylic acid. The driver was trapped in the cab of the truck and was rescued by firefighters; injuries were minor. The incident occurred prior to daybreak and conditions were overcast, with temperatures in the 13°C (55°F) range and rain possible later in the morning. The accident caused significant traffic congestion due to the normal morning commute and the necessity for the highway patrol to implement a traffic diversion plan.

Several agencies responded to the incident, which involved several factors (including an active leak of product and extrication of the driver). A prearranged response protocol with an adjacent fire district was implemented because the accident occurred along the interstate and responders faced limited access and significant travel distances. This particular area has had several significant incidents in the past and the response agencies were well aware of the location and access routes into the location.

Lessons Learned/Smart Practices

- Consider providing personal protective equipment to patient.
- Establish command as soon as possible to avoid duplication of resource requests.
- Conduct post- incident critiques, which can be beneficial in future operations.
- Ensure all jurisdictions and agencies arriving on-scene can quickly and easily identify command staff personnel.
- Maintain a chain of command and unity of command throughout the incident.
- Establish working relationships with other agencies *prior* to the occurrence of incidents.
- Extend personnel accountability to non-fire personnel.
- Avoid self- dispatching, which can create unnecessary issues.
- Consider assigning a safety officer exclusively dedicated to hazmat operations (assistant safety officer for hazmat).

- Ensure that hazmat teams are aware of local, state and federal laws.
- Consider joint training with hazmat teams and private clean-up companies.
- Establish and maintain a unified command if interoperability of communications does not exist between all agencies.

For more information on this and other incidents visit the National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center at <http://www.hazmatfc.com/>