



Summary

Regional Incident Survey Team (RIST) Report

Southern-0901-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

Motor carrier (MC) 306

Hazardous Material

Ethanol, UN 1987

Overview

This incident involved a 30.28 kl (8,000 gal.) MC 306 tanker that had just been filled with ethanol at a rail car trans-loading facility located approximately one-half mile away. The tractor/tanker driver drove off the right side of the roadway causing the tanker to roll into a drainage ditch. The tanker came to a rest on the right side with product leaking from the openings of the dome covers. There were a total of 20 citizens evacuated as the incident progressed.



The incident occurred in a rural area protected by a local volunteer fire department operating from two stations. Normal day time staffing consists of two paid personnel, one being assigned to each station: the fire chief and a driver/operator. Mutual aid agreements are in place and were utilized during this incident. The locality has the availability of a state-level hazardous material regional response team should the resources of the local response agencies become depleted or overwhelmed. Response agencies to this event included the local volunteer department, 14 mutual aid volunteer fire departments, a nearby municipal fire department hazardous materials team, the state regional response hazardous materials team, local law enforcement, state law enforcement, county emergency medical services, county emergency management, state division of emergency management, state division of natural resources, the Environmental Protection Agency and two clean-up companies. Working relationships of the local responders aided in the efficient response times from several local agencies. Request for additional resources were relayed early into the incident providing for needed specialized units, personnel and equipment to mitigate the incident. The local volunteer fire department had just recently visited the ethanol trans-loading facility and completed a training class in handling ethanol emergencies.

Lessons Learned

- Recognize the need for additional resources and make requests early into the incident.
- Have a good knowledge of response capabilities of surrounding departments as well as state resources that can be requested.

- The incident commander must remain stationary, not mobile.
- Unified command must be established at incidents involving multiple agencies and/or multiple jurisdictions; all agencies must have representation in the unified command post.
- Plan for the influx of resources so as to provide a controlled arrival and staging area that will not impede operations.
- Have a strong accountability system to provide for responder safety.
- Multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional events require interoperable communication capabilities.
- Utilize satellite communication capabilities.
- First responders need to be familiar with the assistance provided by the *Emergency Response Guidebook*.
- Pre-incident planning provides essential information for the first responder.
- Consider a temporary flight restriction over the incident scene if it impacts operations.
- Remember coefficient conversion factors during monitoring operations.

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