

Summary

Regional Incident Survey Team (RIST) Report

Central-0902-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

Gasoline UN 1203

Overview

This response was to a reported motor vehicle accident involving several vehicles including a semi-tanker carrying gasoline which had rolled and was on fire. A semi-tanker was traveling northbound on the interstate, as a four-door compact car began to pass. The driver lost control of his car and struck the semi in the area of the dual axles of the tractor. The semi was forced by the impact to the right and struck the retaining wall, causing the semi to roll onto its side, slide across the northbound lanes and strike the dividing wall. It then slid back across the northbound lanes and came to rest under the overpass against the retaining wall. The tractor separated from the tanker as it hit the retaining wall and skidded several more yards before coming to a stop. By this time the tanker was in flames and burning out of control. The tractor and the vehicle also became engulfed in flames. The burning fuel, a mixture of gasoline and diesel fuel, was running south along the east side of the interstate and into the storm sewers. Flames were seen periodically throughout the incident, erupting from the storm sewers on both sides of the interstate. First responding units were able to see the black smoke as they exited their station. As they arrived on the scene they observed the flames from the fire rolling up and over both sides of the overpass, completely engulfing the overpass and the street above in flames and smoke.

Lessons Learned

- Placement of initial response units is essential.
- Be realistic about the possibility of extinguishment versus letting it burn, once the life safety issues are resolved.
- Personnel should be thoroughly trained and familiar with new equipment including the testing and limitations of the equipment.
- These types of multi-agency incidents may require that unified command be established early on.
- Off-duty personal responding to an emergency scene should report in uniform or have visible credentials so they can be easily identified as responders
- Safety officers should maintain scene safety and ensure that proper safety equipment is being used until all responders have been released. Work with any and all contractors who may have been called in to begin work.

Smart Practices

- Train with your mutual aid agencies so that you are familiar with their personnel, their equipment, their capabilities, and their limitations.
- After action reports and after action reviews (AARs) are extremely important and need to be done in a timely matter to ensure that information is not lost, forgotten or misinterpreted.
- Preplanning will eliminate unnecessary delays in the response.

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