

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GASOLINE TANKER ROLLOVER AND PRODUCT RELEASE UPDATE

NORFOLK, CT NOVEMBER 5, 2022:

At 5:58 a.m. on Saturday morning, Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department and Norfolk Lions Club Ambulance were dispatched to a reported gasoline tanker rollover in front of 97 Greenwoods Road East, also known as Route 44. Upon arrival of the first volunteers, the driver had self-extricated from the overturned cab and it was found that the tanker had been breached and was leaking gasoline onto the roadway. Further questioning of the driver revealed that he was carrying a full load of 8200 gallons of gasoline.

Due to the immediate threat of fire and explosion, removal of the residents of nearby houses was carried out promptly. Eversource was notified to cut power to the grid and Aquarian was notified to ensure that we had enough water to fight any potential fire.

Numerous local, regional, state, and federal resources were onsite to assist with the containment and continue to be through Sunday and into early this week.

The investigation by CT DEEP showed that the majority of gasoline made its way into the storm drain system along Route 44 or onto the front lawns of neighboring houses. Following the route of travel, the gasoline made its way under Pettibone Lane and into the brook at Maple Avenue and down to the culvert at the 5-way intersection of Emerson St, Mills Way, Shepard Rd, and John Curtiss Road. A sand berm was put into place blocking the movement of gasoline further under Shepard Road and preventing the gasoline from

entering the Blackberry River. CT DEEP has continued to monitor the river and there is no evidence that any product has moved that far.

Environmental cleanup will continue for at least the next several days both at the crash site as well as at the stream with contaminated water and soil being taken off site. By 8pm on Saturday, residents were allowed to return to their homes after being metered by the NVFD and cleared of any dangerous levels of gasoline.

Moving forward, Botelle Elementary School will be open on Monday. The local bus company has been notified of road closures and families have been notified of possible disruption to the bus routes. The Norfolk Early Learning Center building has also been cleared of any dangerous levels of contaminants and will be open on Monday.

The Norfolk Town Hall will be open on Tuesday for voting as usual and Maple Avenue will be accessible for residents to travel to the Town Hall.

Route 44 from Maple Avenue to Laurel Way is expected to be closed for several more days and local detours are still set up around Laurel Way and Maple Avenue. While residents can use those streets to get to their houses, we are asking that you follow the longer detour of Rt 272 - Ashpohtag - Loon Meadow back to Route 44. There are numerous trucks using the local roads to cart material and we need to keep the roads as clear as possible for them to work.

Truck and tractor trailer traffic is asked to follow Route 272 South to Route 263 into Winchester Center and then down to Route 44 in Winsted.

The Selectmen's Office has notified and updated various boards within the Town Hall including Planning & Zoning as well as the Inland Wetlands Commission of the activities and future plans as far as they are being made.

Norfolk Department of Public Works has been instrumental in refueling the fire trucks on site as well as helping with logistics and heavy equipment.

Lastly, the fire department asks that anyone that has a smell or concern about gas fumes inside your home, to call 911 and we will investigate.

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