

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GASOLINE TANKER ROLLOVER AND PRODUCT RELEASE UPDATE

There will be minimal to no disruptions for voting tomorrow in Norfolk. The Norfolk Town Hall will be open as usual from 6a to 8p for voting and local roads, including Maple Avenue, will be open. Route 44 in the area of Beacon Lane will remain closed. Closed road signs and cones will continue to be in place but Norfolk citizens will be allowed to drive around any barriers they may come across. However, the Norfolk DPW and the fire department will do their best to allow easy access to the areas around the Norfolk Town Hall.

The environmental clean up continues in Norfolk on Monday at 3 distinct locations, all related to Saturday's gasoline tanker rollover and release of 8200 gallons of gasoline.

Soil and other contaminated material continues to be excavated from the area of 97 Greenwoods Road East (Route 44). We expect Route 44 to be closed until Friday, November 11. The current plan is to install temporary traffic control lights at the accident site and allow alternating 1 lane traffic possibly starting this coming weekend.

Maple Avenue including Pettibone Lane continues to show levels of contamination both in the surrounding soils and in the storm drain pipe coming from Route 44. Soil core samples are being taken from under Maple Ave, along the brook, and along Pettibone Lane. Depending on the amount of contamination found, Maple Ave and Pettibone Lane may need extensive excavation to clear up the contaminated areas.

The small brook that runs from Maple Avenue down to the 5-way intersection is heavily contaminated and CT DEEP and the clean up company, Environmental Services, Inc. are spending their time vacuuming contaminated water. There are still no signs that gasoline made its way to the Blackberry River due to the initial efforts of first responders and the expertise of CT DEEP.

It should be expected that the clean up efforts at all 3 sites will take several weeks. During this time, local roads and Route 44 may be closed at different times. We have heard the complaints and understand the safety concerns from citizens regarding the heavy traffic that is now on our local roads including Laurel Way and Shepard Road. We are working with our partners at the State of CT Department of Transportation and the CT State Police to find a better solution of which there may not be one that satisfies everyone's concerns. We have numerous message signs in the area and in Winsted that directs truck traffic to Route 263 and Route 272 and away from local roads. However, this is being ignored in many cases due to various reasons. Unfortunately the manpower does not exist for the fire department or other agency to have people on site to stop or control wayward traffic.

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