

Press Release

Contact: Jonathan Barbagallo
Public Information Officer
Assistant EMD
Phone: (860) 689-3921

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GASOLINE TANKER ROLLOVER AND PRODUCT RELEASE UPDATE

Impending rainy weather this Friday and Saturday has the potential for helping and hurting the cleanup efforts in Norfolk.

The residents of Norfolk should anticipate seeing clean up crews and state officials throughout the area for at least several more weeks. Due to the sheer amount of gas that escaped, the geographic area is quite large, up to approximately 2800 feet from the crash site.

Day 5 continues to show activity by the CT DEEP, Verdantas Environmental, and Environmental Services, Inc. at all 3 sites including Greenwoods Road East, Maple Avenue/Pettibone Lane, and the brook at the 5-way intersection of Mills Way and Emerson Street.

Air quality testing by the National Guard continues to show safe levels at all testing areas including Botelle Elementary School, Norfolk Early Learning Center, Norfolk Town Hall, Norfolk Fire House, and the intersection of Maple Avenue and Laurel Way.

Removal of soil along route 44 at the crash site continues and the resulting hole is approximately 10 feet deep and as long as 50 feet. Clean fill is currently being placed into the hole to stabilize Route 44 in anticipation of the heavy rains. Soil testing at this site is ongoing in numerous areas and it does not appear that contamination reached the road bed under Route 44. This development is good news as it means that Route 44 should be

reopened sooner than anticipated. However we are told that may not occur until some point this weekend.

The majority of activity today was focused on Maple Avenue and Pettibone Lane. Various test holes were drilled in and around the road as vapors and gas products were still being found in the stream and catch basins in the area. Removal of soils and sands in the brook started today and showed varying levels of contamination. We believe some of this contamination continues to make its way along the path of least resistance which is alongside sewer mains, storm drain pipes and water mains. Testing continues to show that no contamination has entered the water or sewer system since those are both closed systems.

The testing of the water in the brook at Site #3 - the 5-way intersection - shows better quality while vacuuming continues. This proves that the contamination is being contained and removed higher up on Maple Avenue.

The Norfolk DPW continues to assist by monitoring road closures, fueling light trailers, and even trimmed several branches on Laurel Way in order to make it easier for the heavy traffic to pass safely.

The fire department continues to meter for dangerous gas levels in houses as requested by CT DEEP and by homeowners. As previously stated, anyone that has concerns should call 911 and the FD will investigate further.

The State DMV Truck Squad continues to monitor truck traffic and has worked with State DOT to increase signage in Winsted and along the detour route. Their presence has prevented numerous trucks trying to bypass the detour and has stopped them from entering the town.

The Norfolk Town Hall will be open tomorrow as planned for the Covid Vaccine clinic from 10a to 2p. Access should be gained from Maple Avenue and Route 44.

We have had several safety concerns with trucks and vehicles entering the blocked roads, specifically the area of the crash site and the small section of Maple Avenue near Pettibone Lane. While local residents can access their houses nearby, we ask that you do not cross over Route 44 and not to interfere with crews on Maple Avenue for your safety and the safety of the staff that are working.

If Norfolk residents have any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the cleanup operations, they are urged to call the Selectmen's Office at 860.542.5829.

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