

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GASOLINE TANKER ROLLOVER AND PRODUCT RELEASE UPDATE

An informational town meeting will be scheduled for early next week. We are currently working on the details and will have a formal announcement by tomorrow.

To the residents directly affected by this tragedy, we are listening to your concerns. Every state and local asset available is being utilized to end this as soon as possible but that cannot happen in a disorganized or haphazard manner. The cleanup methods being used are proven but take time. Yes, answers are sometimes slow in coming but not due to any malfeasance or intent. We ask for your patience and understanding in that this accident is unprecedented in its scope and size. State officials have told us that this situation is being carefully reviewed at the highest levels of government and we are confident that we are being given every resource currently available to us.

All hands were working today in Norfolk including CT DEEP, Verdantas Environmental, and Environmental Services, Inc. Local resources included the Torrington Fire Department, Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department, Riverton Fire Department, Norfolk Public Works, Norfolk Sewer District staff, the Emergency Operations Center staff with assistance from the CT West Incident Management Team.

The activity today centered around preparing for the rain that will be in Norfolk tomorrow and Saturday. According to our contacts at the National Weather Service, Norfolk is expecting between 1.5 and 1.75 inches of rain before the event is over. A certain amount of

precipitation will be helpful in the clean up efforts but too much will cause issues with containment.

We are optimistic that Route 44 will be reopened by the end of the day tomorrow but this will change depending on the severity of the weather. State DOT is working closely with the CT DEEP in getting this accomplished as soon as possible. The initial soil excavation at the crash site was completed and the hole filled back in. However, further testing showed more contamination and more soil was removed from adjacent areas. This is expected to be completed by tomorrow and will be the deciding factor as to when Route 44 will reopen.

The area of Maple Avenue, Pettibone Lane, and the brook bordering the Manor House continue to be the largest area of concern for clean up right now based on soil testing. The ground monitors continue to show gasoline underground and emptying into the brook. A substantial amount of equipment and efforts were centered around removing rock, soil, and sand from the upper portion of the brook today before heavy rains have the chance to move it downhill.

The fire departments on scene continued to support the operations by metering local homes for unhealthy air quality. Our area of concern is focused on only 1 residence at this time with other local homes and facilities being clear. We have also obtained from our mutual aid partners, 5 electric sump pumps to supplement our own equipment in case we receive calls for flooding basements over the weekend.

The CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) was able to assign a GIS mapping expert to our emergency and she was able to provide us with maps greatly enhancing our ability to share information with others and vice versa.

Moving forward, it is the hope that we can get a more clear picture after this rain storm of when we can move from the current emergency phase of this operation to a remediation phase. Throughout the weekend, crews will be active in monitoring the test sites, measuring contamination levels and developing plans for next week based on the data received.

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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