**DID YOU KNOW?**

⇒ **WRECKER SERVICES WILL SOON UNDERTAKE A PILOT PROGRAM ALLOWING THEM TO EMPTY UNBREACHED SADDLE TANKS**

The State Departments of Public Safety, Transportation, and Environmental Protection, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Towing and Recovery Professionals of Connecticut have entered into an agreement establishing a pilot program allowing wrecker services to empty saddle tanks of commercial vehicles/tractor-trailers under specific conditions.

This pilot program begins October 1, 2003 and will be in effect for one year, unless terminated earlier by any of the parties.

The conditions under which the wrecker services will be allowed to empty the saddle tanks include all of the following:

- When a commercial vehicle/tractor-trailer is jackknifed, or down an embankment and there is no leakage of fuel and no breach of the saddle tanks.

- When a risk assessment conducted on scene by appropriate responding agencies determines that such emptying can be done without compromising the environmental safety of the scene.

- When the responding wrecker company personnel has documentation of completed training and is equipped with approved equipment.

Other conditions include:

- All cases of emptying, or attempts to empty, will be documented and a record maintained.
- Any participating party may call for a critique of the incident.
- The program does not apply to vehicles on bridges over water nor to vehicles on highways adjacent to a public water supply.

For a copy of the complete agreement, please contact: Jim Mona at ConnDOT 522-3450.
THE TSB IS STUDYING INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The State Transportation Strategy Board has established an Incident Management Task Force that is reviewing incident management issues for the State legislature. Specified items under discussion include:

- incident response time standards;
- diversion plans for serious incidents that close the freeway;
- jurisdictional issues that affect incident scene management;
- pre-positioning of tow vehicles;
- expansion of the State’s existing Connecticut Highway Assistance Motorist Patrol (CHAMP) service; and
- installation of vision barriers in appropriate areas to reduce “rubbernecking” during incidents.

Other issues are also being addressed. Check the TSB website for meeting times and places and to review minutes of meetings already held. The website is: www.tsb.state.ct.us.

CONNDOT HAS NEW DIRECTION SIGNS

In an effort to upgrade and expand diversion signing ConnDOT has recently purchased 22 replacement sign packages to be used in assisting local /State police when traffic is diverted from limited access highways to State or local roads during a major highway incident. These new signs are lighter and easier to place.

TOWNS MAY BE REIMBURSED WHEN POLICE ARE CALLED UPON TO DIRECT TRAFFIC DIVERTED DURING A HIGHWAY INCIDENT

If your local police department is called out to assist in the direction of diverted traffic during a highway incident, you may be eligible for the reimbursement of costs by submitting a claim to the insurance agency of the responsible party.

Contact your State Police Troop for the incident accident information summary report concerning the appropriate insurance carrier.

YOU CAN CALL FOR AN AFTER-ACTION DEBRIEFING ANYTIME

Any responder can call for an “after action” debriefing, following an incident on a highway, if they believe there is a need for one.

ConnDOT Highway Operations and /or State Police field operations are the primary point of contact in initiating such a meeting.
**NCC-CMED WILL COORDINATE THE MEDICAL RESPONSE DURING A MAJOR INCIDENT UPON YOUR NOTIFICATION**

One call to your CMED agency can result in coordination of ambulance response and hospital assignments during a major incident. North Central Connecticut CMED covers towns in the greater Hartford area. Their phone number is 860-769-6051, or they can be reached on the following radio frequencies: Intercity Fire Radio and MEDNET.

They also provide a wide range of Emergency Medical Services and Mass Casualty Incident Communications training. Information about their many programs can be found on their website: www.northcentralctems.org.

**TRAFFIC CAM IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Traffic Cam images are available on the ConnDOT website: www.dot.state.ct.us. Only two cameras are operational in the Hartford area, but more will be online soon.

**CONNDOT HAS DIVERSION PLANS FOR INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS**

Diversion plans for each of the exits on the two major interstate highways in the Hartford area have been prepared and were distributed to the appropriate local police departments several years ago. Highway sections covered include Interstate 91 from Wallingford to the Massachusetts state line and Interstate 84 from Plainville also to the Massachusetts state line.

If you have misplaced yours, contact Jim Mona at 860-594-3450 for replacement copies and information about their use.

**ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE**

Additional copies of this newsletter can be obtained from Karen Olson at CRCOG. Call her at 860-522-2217 or email her at kolson@crcog.org. This newsletter and previous editions also available on the Transportation page of the CRCOG website: http://crcog.org/transportation2.htm.

Feel free to make as many copies as you want and share them with your co-workers.
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Steering Committee are listed below.

Local Fire Departments
Chief David Dagon
East Hartford, 528-4171
Chief Edward Richards
Enfield, 745-1878

Local Police Departments
Capt. Michael Fallon
Hartford, 722-6150
Chief James Strillacci
West Hartford, 523-5203

Emergency Medical Services
North Central Connecticut
EMS Council, Inc.
Hugo S. Costa, Jr., 769-6055

Towing Services
Towing & Recovery
Professionals of CT
Roman Prpytnewicz, 667-1605
Tim Vibert, 677-9074

Regional Planning Agencies
CRCOG: Karen Olson, 522-2217
CCRPA: Margus Laan, 589-7820
MRPA: Robert Haramut, 347-7214

CT State Police
Lt. Robert Corona
Troop C, 896-3200
Lt. Lucian St. Germain
Troop H, 534-1018

CT Department of Transportation
Jim Mona, 594-3450
Ron Cormier, 258-4501

CT Department of Environmental Protection
Rich Ciasullo, 424-3377
Matt Williamson, 424-3377

Incident Management:
• Coordination
• Cooperation
• Communication

Questions or Comments?
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A highway incident management newsletter for the Hartford, New Britain, and Middletown areas. Prepared by:
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Connecticut Department of Transportation

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