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## Residents allowed home after gas spill

### 3,500 gallons of fuel mess on the road

Updated: Wednesday, 20 Apr 2011, 11:58 AM CDT  
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Catenya McHenry  
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GEORGETOWN, Texas (KXAN) - A fuel tanker overturned in the Sun City area on Del Webb Boulevard at about 8 a.m. Tuesday and disrupted traffic and neighbors' lives for the entire day. Residents were finally allowed to return home at about 6 p.m.

City of Georgetown officials said late Tuesday the road should be opened to two-way traffic by 7:30 p.m. Traffic between Double Fire Trail and Whispering Wind Drive will be limited to two lanes.

Crews worked all day to avoid an explosion and clean up the 3,500 gallons of spilled gasoline.

Because of the crushed truck cab, the truck was left running because crews could not get to the ignition to shut it off, increasing the danger of a spark igniting the gas, according to officials on the scene.

Power was shut off to 200 homes at about 5:30 p.m. for an hour as part of the process.

Officials said cleanup was moving faster than expected. Crews were preparing at about 6 p.m. to remove the overturned tanker truck off the street. Before that could happen, the remaining fuel stored in the tanker had to be sucked out. Once the process was done, heavy-duty tow trucks put the tanker truck back on its wheels at about 6:15 p.m.

With Berry Creek waterway and underground tunnels nearby, there was an environmental concern. Officials said none of the fuel has spilled into the creek. Officials also said the spilled fuel seeped into the ground and is sitting on underground vaults or utility boxes. Crews are working to remove fuel in those areas.

The 40-year-old Texcon Oil Company tanker driver, Cedric Williams, was treated for minor injuries at a local hospital after the crash. Officials said Williams was making his first delivery of the day to Sun City's gas station when he overturned. Officials are still figuring out how he lost control at about 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Georgetown Fire Chief Robert Fite said the fuel spilled from an 8-inch gash in the tanker. Dikes were put in place to contain the spill. Earlier in the day he thought the area would be reopened by 5 p.m.

Officials said the driver works for **Texcon Oil Company** in Austin. He apparently overcorrected while rounding a curve in the road after he was distracted. Police said he looked up and crashed the truck. He was taken to Seton Williamson Hospital for treatment.

Residents were evacuated from about 140 homes as a safety measure as soon as the crash happened while Hazardous Material crews from Hutto, Williamson County, Jollyville and Georgetown worked to clean up the mess.

Efforts throughout the day were made to prevent any sparks from causing a static charge and triggering an explosion. Fire crews monitored vapors in the area to determine if there was danger of explosion. Because of severe damage to the cab of the truck, officials could not shut off its engine, a concern with the spill and dry weather conditions.

The American Red Cross set up a temporary shelter at the Sun City ballroom at 2 Texas Drive. Nine people took advantage of the shelter, and no injuries to residents were reported as a result of the spill.

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Traffic was rerouted and Del Webb Boulevard closed until cleanup is completed Tuesday night.

Officials and an emergency crew from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality were at the crash scene all day

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assessing the environmental impact of the spill.

"If this was on fire this would be a much easier situation to handle because we let the fuel burn. We pack up our stuff when it's done and we clean up. But not being on fire and being in those explosive limits makes this such a more volatile situation," said Fite.

"This kind of thing is happening is kind of scary. But I think the roads here aren't banked the right way when you go into a curve. They're banked to the outside. So somebody who doesn't know it like a truck driver -- like this one -- might have been paying attention the load shifts and boom, over he goes," said Sun City resident Mark Atkinson.

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**Andi Pientka Cody** Apr 19

Mom and dad had to leave there house today because of this! If you look out there front door you can see this mess!



**Philip Bronco Gallagher** Apr 19

thanks for giving me the day off at the golf course you crashed next to cedric - however learn how to drive



**Jamie Carter Bollich** Apr 19

My parents live on Whispering Wind. Need to see how they were affected.



Jessica Barbara Schatz Apr 19

Our property backs up to Sun City...I was walking on the next street after the entrance (Dell Webb Blvd), and two guys were welding a fence...I called the fire dept, and the shut them down..Still don't know if the truck is still running...4,000 gallons of gasoline, right next door...and fires are so bad right now..very frightening.



Osito Pelon Apr 19

Damn 1 of our drivers was in that truck. Prayn for all involved

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