

From: Cooke, Michelle  
Sent: 8/23/2011 5:35:59 PM  
To: Horner, Trina (/O=PG&E/OU=CORPORATE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=TNHC)  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: FW: update on tank car fire

Trina- here is the information I have. News coverage is at kcra.com.

Hopefully no issue, but just being cautious.

**From:** Watson, Julie M.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 5:24 PM  
**To:** King, Paul; Clugston, Roger N.; Farley, Joe; Chavez, Edward M.; Healy, John  
**Cc:** Cooke, Michelle; patrick.patten@dot.gov; joe.mejia@dot.gov; ernie.sirotek@dot.gov  
**Subject:** update on tank car fire

Our hazmat inspector is still in Lincoln, at the Incident Command Center that was moved further back to 1.5 miles from the site of the fire. The new IC is at the Lincoln Fire Dept at Joiner Parkway and 1st Street, across the street from the community center where residents are going who are being evacuated.

Law enforcement is not forcing people to evacuate, though they are notifying residents and telling them where to go. Those who choose to remain in their homes are required to sign a form saying they are choosing not to evacuate. There are now three locations for evacuation. In addition to the Lincoln Community Center, the Orchard Creek Community Center and the Kilaga Springs Community Center, both located in Del Webb Lincoln are open for evacuees. The American Red Cross and Salvation Army are both helping the evacuees.

There is an underground gas pipeline next to the railroad tracks, approximately 100 yards away from the propane facility.

According to inspector Healy, an inspection earlier this year showed that Heritage

Propane was up to date with their FRA-required training. Additionally, Heritage Propane was also present at the FRA-sponsored Hazmat Seminar in Reno recently, which included a wide variety of safety training on hazardous material loading and unloading.

UP Hazmat manager Ben Selo is in a helicopter with CalFire monitoring the blaze. Sac Metro Fire Department is also flying overhead in a helicopter.

AMR ambulance is on scene.

Further details on what preceded the incident:

The Heritage Propane employee climbed on top of tank car UTLX 951013 to check the temperature of the car in the thermometer well. He then opened the sampler valve, which is when the fire ignited. The sampler valve is used for sampling the product to see how clean it is and whether it contains any water. It is unknown at this time how the fire started or where the product was leaking from that is burning. The testing done by the employee was done in preparation for planned unloading to take place the following day.

The fire initially was burning directly up from the center of the car. In the past hour it appears to be going sideways along the top of the car as well, with the possibility of propane coming out to the side from the top of the car.

***Julie Watson***

**Senior Transportation Operations Supervisor**

**California Public Utilities Commission**

**Consumer Protection & Safety Division**

**Railroad Operations & Safety Branch**

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916-798-9174

**From:** Watson, Julie M.

**Sent:** Tue 8/23/2011 3:17 PM

**To:** Watson, Julie M.; King, Paul; Clugston, Roger N.; Farley, Joe; Chavez, Edward M.; Healy, John

**Cc:** Cooke, Michelle; patrick.patten@dot.gov; joe.mejia@dot.gov

**Subject:** RE: update on tank car fire

Further updates:

Our CPUC hazmat inspector learned that the fire was caused by a cap removed from a thermometer well on the tank car, an FRA defect.

The tank car fire is at Heritage Propane in Lincoln. The employee involved who was working on the car sustained first and second degree burns on his leg.

The car number is UTLX 951013 can hold 33,000 gallons of LPG (propane). There is an estimated 500,000 gallons of propane on the property.

The Lincoln Fire Department and Sheriffs Department responded. Originally they planned on letting the fire burn out. Now they are trying to put the fire out.

A one mile radius has been evacuated, with the Lincoln Community Center being a designated location for residents to go who are evacuated. Part of highway 65 is closed.

***Julie Watson***

**Senior Transportation Operations Supervisor**

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**From:** Watson, Julie M.

**Sent:** Tue 8/23/2011 1:58 PM

**To:** King, Paul; Clugston, Roger N.; Farley, Joe; Chavez, Edward M.; Healy, John

**Subject:** update on tank car fire

Union Pacific Railroad (UP) received a report at 12:26pm on August 23, 2011 of a liquified petroleum gas filled tank car burning in Lincoln, California. at a facility that loads cars with LPG. One of the four cars spotted at the facility was on fire. UP notified CalEMA at 12:49PM.

Additional updates:

- the north end of Lincoln has been evacuated
- none of the UP hazmat team is in the area
- both highway 65 and the railroad are shut down in the area
- CPUC hazmat inspector is enroute from the Bay Area and will be gathering information from a safe distance away from the incident
- All FRA hazmat inspectors are currently in Southern California

***Julie Watson***

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