



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: July 10, 2007 @ 1:10p.m.  
Release: Immediately  
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### **(Hazmat Spill Snarls Traffic on 217 for Hours)**

At approximately 9:55 a.m. this morning, firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's West Slope fire station (Engine 65) responded to the report of a traffic problem on northbound 217 near Walker Road. A flat-bed semi truck –whose driver had braked suddenly to avoid colliding with a nearby car- was stalled on the roadway.

The truck, owned by JB Instant Lawns and driven by Robert Bagosian (age 47), was hauling twelve 250-gallon containers of industrial solvent waste. Though the trucking papers indicated that there were no hazardous materials on board, firefighters discovered a green, foaming liquid escaping from two of the containers. As a precaution, they requested TVF&R's hazardous materials team to respond. Wearing chemical resistant splash suits and breathing apparatus, the specialized hazmat/firefighters identified the material (a latex paint residue combined with a solvent used to clean water-based paint), plugged the leaks and deployed containment materials.

At the same time, ODOT emergency response crews and Beaverton police officers shut down traffic on northbound 217 and diverted motorists to Beaverton Hillsdale Highway. Highway 217 remained closed in northbound lanes for twenty minutes until they were able to open one lane.

Currently firefighters remain on scene awaiting the arrival of N.R.C. Environmental services who will safely remove all of the truck's containers, as well as clean the roadway and nearby ditch. Once it has had its cargo safely removed, the truck will be towed.

Motorists were never endangered by the leaking chemicals and there were no injuries resulting from this incident. One lane of northbound 217 will likely remain closed for the next few hours and motorists are encouraged to use alternative routes.

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