



1:02 PM August 11, 2005

Truck spill closes area highway

**Associated Press
August 11, 2005**

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind. -- A truck carrying nearly 7,000 gallons of flammable liquid overturned and spilled part of its load, prompting officials to evacuate residents living within a half-mile and close a highway for about 15 hours.

The truck crashed when it swerved to avoid an oncoming car on Indiana 32 a few miles east of Crawfordsville Wednesday evening, police said. The driver of the truck and two women in the car had minor injuries.

"The tanker began leaking right away and it was leaking at a rate of a gallon every 15 to 20 seconds," Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputy Luther Blanton said. "It was leaking pretty fast."

Authorities were concerned about a possible fire from the denatured alcohol that the tanker was carrying.

"It has a very low flashpoint, which means it is easily ignited," Crawfordsville Fire Chief Todd Barton said. "That plus the fact alcohol burns clear makes it a very dangerous situation. You can have a fire someplace in the spill and not know it."

Barton estimated that about 300 to 400 gallons were released before the leak was stopped.

The stretch of Indiana 32 about 40 miles northwest of Indianapolis reopened this morning. The remaining fuel was transferred to another tanker.

The highway will be closed again Friday morning between Interstate 74 and Indiana 75 in Dover for repair work, Barton said.