

# General Environmental Incident Summary

**Incident:** 3563      **Date/Time Notice:** 11/20/2014      2315      **DEM Incident No:**

**Responsible Party:** Ratzlaff Motor Express, Inc.

**Date Incident:** 11/20/2014      **Time Incident:** 2300      **Duration:** 1 hours

**County:** McHenry      **Twp:** 153      **Rng:** 80      **Sec:** 26      **Qtr:**

**Lat:** 48.04276      **Long:** -100.90770      **Method:** Interpolation from map

**Location Description:** ND Highway 52, mile marker 118, approximately one mile east of Velva on the north side of the highway in Spring Creek

**Submitted By:** Dustin Wellstad

**Affiliation:** McHenry County Sheriff's Office

**Address:** 407 Main Street South

**City:** Towner

**State:** ND

**Zip:** 58788

**Received By:** Emily Tintes Schiwal

NDDH

**Contact Person:** Ben Ratzlaff  
14390 50th Street  
Mayer, MN 55360

**Distance Nearest Occupied Building:** 100 Feet

**Release Contained:** Yes

**Type of Incident:** Vehicle Accident

**Description of Released Contaminant:** Engine Oil

**Volume Spilled:** 15.00 gallons

**Ag Related:** No

**EPA Extremely Hazardous Substance:** No

**Reported to NRC:** Unknown

## **Cause of Incident:**

A mechanical failure caused the grain truck to veer off of Highway 52, travel through a residential yard, head off of a small cliff, and land in Spring Creek at the bottom of the ravine.

## **Risk Evaluation:**

The driver was transported to the hospital and no further human health risk is anticipated.

**# of Fatalities:** 0

**# of Injuries:** 1

**Affected Medium:** 04 - water and soil

## **Potential Environmental Impacts:**

The leaking engine oils did reach the creek, which is still flowing. The oil appeared to not be migrating with the current and was mainly pooled by the truck and on the bank soils. Absorbents and a berm or dike will be put in place downstream prior to moving the truck as to prevent further contamination.

## **Action Taken or Planned:**

Earthmovers will be cleaning up the oils that reached the creek and surrounding soils. They will be draining the truck's fuel tank prior to moving the truck as to make sure no further fuels end up in the water or on the surrounding bank.

**Wastes Disposal Location:** TBD

**Agencies Involved:** Local Fire Department, Local Law Enforcement, Local Emergency Manager

## **Updates**

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**Date:** 11/21/2014 **Status:** Reviewed - Follow-up Required

**Author:** Espe, Brady

**Updated Volume:**

**Notes:**

Release, due to leak from a truck, ended up in creek. Followup is necessary to determine adequate cleanup.

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**Date:** 11/21/2014 **Status:** Inspection

**Author:** Roberts, Kris

**Updated Volume:**

**Notes:**

On location this date at approximately 08:45. Met with landowner, RP insurance adjuster, and environmental response team.

Semi tractor embedded in the north bank of Spring Creek, with grain trailer still connected and half on, half off the south bank. Engine oil has leaked into the creek, but ice has done much to contain it just around the impact site.

Absorbent booms and snare boom has been deployed in 3 sets within 100 feet downstream of the impact site. Ice was cut away to provide a good catchment site for any oil that might be forced under the ice during truck removal. A grain vacuum was deployed late on 11/21 to remove the wheat from the grain trailer, and vehicle removal and restoration follow-up is scheduled for 11/22. DoH and Environmental Response personnel will be onsite for the removal.

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**Date:** 11/22/2014 **Status:** Inspection

**Author:** Kangas, Kathleen

**Updated Volume:**

**Notes:**

On site for removal of truck from creek. Met landowner, insurance adjuster, and towing company staff. Truck was pulled out of creek without apparent damage to diesel tanks (which were mostly drained on 11/21 by Strata). Some antifreeze was dripping from the front of the truck, with some soaking into the soil on the flat ground above the south bank. The towing company placed absorbent pads underneath the drip. The grain from the trailer was removed earlier in the morning prior to removing the truck. Absorbent boom and snare remain in the creek. Damage was done to the banks on both sides. No additional motor oil or diesel was seen leaking from the truck during or after it was hauled out of the creek.

**Updated Volume:**

**Notes:**

Sent email to Strata requesting followup on cleanup activities after the truck was removed from the creek. Reply is below:

Strata has removed any impacted soil on the slope (from removing the truck), which was a very small amount. Removed all impacted booms, pads and pom poms. Left three rows of pom poms in the water. Will remove in the spring.

Placed the disturbed soil back in place on stream bank. Seeded and placed ground cover on the bank.

Will look at the stream bank in spring. There was some talk of maybe rip-rap. All impacts were disposed of at Clean Harbor. The fuel that was removed from truck fuel tanks was recycled to Tri Oil.

No further on-site inspection followup is necessary.