

Tractor Trailer Jackknifes; Hazmat Called to Scene

Written by Debbie Gregory
Tuesday, May 15, 2012



THP Trooper Tracy Donoho responded to a tractor-trailer accident shortly before 8:00 p.m. on Saturday night, May 12th, at the intersection of Highway 52 West and Westside Elementary School, in Macon County. The driver was injured and Hazmat was called to clean up a diesel fuel spill.

According to Donoho, Mike Beckwith, Jr., of Visalia, California, who drives for Knights Transportation, out of Indiana, was heading east on Highway 52 in a tractor-trailer and when he rounded the curve approaching old Hwy. 52 at Westside, the truck apparently jack knifed causing the driver to lose control. He traveled off the north side of the roadway, coming to rest in a deep ravine.

“It took rescue workers 45 minutes to get the driver out,” Trooper Donoho said, “and he was transported by the Macon County EMS to Sumner County Regional Hospital, suffering from possible internal injuries. He was later transferred to Vanderbilt Hospital.”

“The diesel tank was ruptured, causing fuel to leak out, and a Hazmat crew was called to clean up the spill,” added Donoho, who remained at the scene until 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning, May 13th.

On Monday afternoon, Vanderbilt spokesperson, Ashley Culver, stated that Mr. Beckwith is listed in stable condition.

Responding agencies included the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Macon County Sheriffs Department, Macon County EMS, Lafayette Fire Department, Westmoreland Fire Department, West Macon Rescue Squad, Macon County Rescue Squad, and the Macon County Chronicle was also on the scene.

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“The truck was a total loss,” concluded Trooper Donoho, “and the accident is still under investigation.”