

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

101st session

Geneva, 8–11 November 2016

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Any other business

22 August 2016

### Press report related to notification of occurrence ID 38 in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2016/16

#### Transmitted by the Government of Germany

Tuesday, 3 June 2015, 22:30 hrs

A9 between Dittersdorf access point and Schleiz access point in the direction of Nuremberg, Saale-Orle district, Thuringia

News no.: 20661

#### Parcel service lorry hits dangerous goods lorry:

Driver of a 40 tonner does not recognize end of a tailback and hits rear end of a tanker without braking - 24,000 litres of oxygen leak as explosive liquefied petroleum gas - driver stuck in vehicle with critical injuries

Fire brigade rescues driver despite immediate risk of explosion - Fire brigade: “ A really emotional story. To see to the safety of one’s own staff while at the same time trying to rescue the injured driver.”



Date: Tuesday, 3 June 2015, 22:30 hours

Location: A9 between Dittersdorf access point and Schleiz access point in the direction of Nuremberg, Saale-Orle district, Thuringia

(ch) For the members of the fire brigade the message actually sounded like a routine operation late in the evening: “Applying binders on leaking oil and petrol after a traffic accident”. After an accident involving a vehicle the firemen were called to clean the road. But while driving to the accident site the next alarm message was received. A lorry driver had failed to see the ensuing tailback and hit the rear of a tanker without braking. Unfortunately, its load consisted of highly flammable and explosive oxygen as liquefied petroleum gas. And, to make things worse, the driver of the impacting lorry which was fully laden with postal items was massively stuck behind his wheel.

The fireman had to carefully approach the accident site. A single ignition spark emanating from one of the damaged lorries would have been sufficient to ignite the gas/air mixture. The trailer containing the dangerous substance was carefully drawn away from the truck train; only then were the men able to work efficiently. This operation was, however, not easy since the whole driver's cab was pressed together. It was only after one hour that the firemen succeeded in rescuing the driver who had suffered critical injuries and was taken to hospital by helicopter a short time later. During the rescue operations, both directions of traffic were closed. The fire brigade used a high-pressure blower to slowly spread the liquefied petroleum gas - which is heavier than air - over an adjoining field, wafting there like dense shallow fog. The fire brigade had to wait until the whole 24,000 litres of oxygen were discharged before recovering the wrecked dangerous goods lorry.

Obstructions on the A9 tanker leaks liquefied oxygen after collision

3 June 2015 07:10 hrs

Icy carriageway, seriously injured lorry driver: In the night from Tuesday to Wednesday, an accident involving a tanker led to considerable obstructions on the motorway A9..

An accident involving a tanker led to obstructions on the motorway A9 lasting several hours. Near Dittersdorf, a lorry driver ran into the rear of a tanker at the end of a tailback. The lorry driver was stuck in the driver's cab and was seriously injured according to information provided by the police in Erfurt on Wednesday. On Tuesday night he was taken to hospital by a rescue helicopter. The driver of the tanker suffered minor injuries.

The tanker was laden with 24 tonnes of liquefied oxygen. As a consequence of the accident there was a rupture in the tank. The oxygen leaked onto the carriageway and froze immediately. The recovery operations on the carriageway in the direction of Munich were still underway on Wednesday morning. According to the police, traffic was, however, moving again on one lane. It is expected to finish the work in the course of the morning. The damage caused is estimated to amount to 100.000 euros. (dpa).

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