

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Highway Safety

Washington, DC 20594



HWY23MH017

CRASH INFORMATION AND SUMMARY REPORT

Teutopolis, IL

A. CRASH INFORMATION

Location: Teutopolis, Effingham County, Illinois

Date: September 29, 2023

Time: 8:41 p.m. CDT

Crash Involved Vehicles:

Vehicle 1: 2013 Toyota Sienna (private auto) - Non-contact vehicle

Vehicle 2: 2005 International 9900ix truck-tractor in combination with a 1978 Mississippi Tank Company MC331 cargo tank

Operator 2: Prairieland Transport, LTD.

Vehicle 3: 2021 Sure-Trac Utility trailer (legally parked)

Operator 3: Ameren Corporation

Vehicles Exposed to Hazardous Materials Release:

Vehicle 4: 2022 Freightliner truck-tractor in combination with two 2017 Wabash semitrailers

Operator 4: Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.

Vehicle 5: 2015 Kenworth truck-tractor in combination with a 2006 Fontane semi-trailer

Operator 5: Long Way Shipments, Inc.

Vehicle 6: 2023 Hyundai Santa Cruz (private auto)

Vehicle 7: 2019 Volkswagen Passat (private auto)

B. CRASH SUMMARY

On Friday, September 29, 2023, about 8:41 p.m. central daylight time, a 2013 Toyota Sienna minivan was passing a 2005 International 9900 IX truck-tractor in combination with a 1978 Mississippi Tank Company MC331 Cargo Tank semitrailer (combination vehicle), operated by Prairieland Transport, LTD. Both vehicles were traveling west on United States Highway 40 (US-40), near Teutopolis, in Effingham County, Illinois. The passing maneuver was being conducted in a no passing zone and in the presence of oncoming traffic. The combination vehicle, which was loaded with approximately 7,619 gallons of UN1005, anhydrous ammonia, a Hazard Class 2.2

material and an inhalation hazard¹, moved to the right to allow the Toyota minivan to complete its passing maneuver. The combination vehicle departed the roadway and traveled into the roadside drainage ditch. The cargo tank combination struck the end of a 12-inch-diameter corrugated metal pipe culvert installed beneath a field entrance, causing the combination to jackknife and roll onto its right side. As the combination vehicle jackknifed and rolled, it exposed the head end of the cargo tank, which came into contact with the hitch of a utility trailer that had been parked on private property at the crash location. The hitch punctured the cargo tank, leaving a hole that measured approximately 7-inches in length and 4-inches wide, which led to the release of anhydrous ammonia onto the ground and into the atmosphere. The Toyota minivan did not come into contact with the combination vehicle or the oncoming vehicle.

At this location, US-40 is a non-divided two-lane asphalt roadway comprised of two approximate 12-foot-wide travel lanes (one in each direction of travel) and flanked by 1-foot-wide asphalt paved and 2-foot-wide crushed aggregate shoulders. Adjacent to the north shoulder was a shallow drainage ditch. The posted speed limit on US-40 was 55 miles per hour (mph). At the time of the crash, it was dark with no overhead lighting, and the roadway surface was dry.

As a result of the crash and subsequent release of anhydrous ammonia from the cargo tank, five people sustained fatal anhydrous ammonia exposure injuries (two drivers and three residents of a nearby home), eight other people sustained serious exposure injuries requiring hospitalization for over 48 hours, and four people sustained minor exposure injuries. The restrained driver of the combination vehicle that was involved in the initial crash sustained minor injuries from the crash and serious exposure injuries from the anhydrous ammonia. The occupants of the Toyota minivan were not injured.

¹ See 49 Code of Federal Regulations 172.101, "[Hazmat Table](#)".