

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Office of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Investigations
Washington, DC 20594**

ATTACHMENT 1

City of Bellingham News Release On June 16, 1999

City of Bellingham Fire Department Phone/Radio Log of

June 10, 1999



News Release

To: All Media
From: Don Pierce
Date: 06/16/99
Re: Whatcom Creek Incident—Death Investigation

The Bellingham Police Department, the Bellingham Fire Department, and the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office have conducted a joint investigation into the deaths of Wade King, Stephen Tsiorvas, and Liam Wood. The purpose of this investigation was to determine the cause of death of the three young men and to determine what ignited the petroleum product that had spilled into Hanna and Whatcom Creek. An examination of the physical evidence and statements from witnesses have revealed the following information.

Wade King and Stephen Tsiorvas died after transport to medical facilities from severe burns. Liam Wood's cause of death was drowning. Liam was discovered in Whatcom Creek by Search and Rescue on Thursday evening.

The point of origin of the fire appears to be the point where Hanna Creek flows into Whatcom Creek. A fireplace lighter and some of the boys clothing were recovered at that point. The burn pattern also points to this area as the point of ignition. This is also consistent with eyewitness accounts of the fire.

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Statements of the witnesses and victims indicate that one of the boys lit a fireplace lighter in the area of Hanna and Whatcom Creek. The fumes that were coming from the creek ignited.

Liam Wood, who was downstream from Hanna Creek on Whatcom Creek in the very steep part of the creek basin was most likely overcome by the fumes and fell into the water sometime before the fire was ignited.

Attached to this press release is a timeline of events from the first notification of the odor investigation until shortly after the ignition of the product in Whatcom and Hanna Creek.

PHONE/RADIO LOG

JUNE 10TH, 1999

	TIME
FIRST REPORT OF CHEMICAL ODOR	16.24.14
TONES: DISPATCH E-51	16.25.02
E-54 SAID THEY ARE RESPONDING	16.26.34
DISPATCH CODE GREENS E-51	16.27.05
SECOND CALL OF TOXIC HAZARD AND PETROLEUM IN WHATCOM CREEK. CALLER: DON ALDERSON	16.27.36
PROSPECT NOTIFIES E-54 OF SECOND CALL	16.29.05
PROSPECT TONES FOR AN UPGRADE TO HAZMAT I.	16.29.50
THIRD CALL ABOUT GAS SMELL AT WOBURN/IOWA (CALLER SAID HE WORKS FOR AN OIL COMPANY)	16.30.02
E-51 REQUESTS PROSPECT NOTIFY HATCHERY	16.30.26
PHONE CALL ABOUT FUEL SPILL IN CREEK	16.32.10
MESSAGE LEFT ON HATCHERY RECORDER	16.32.10
LADDER 41 ENROUTE	16.33.08
PROSPECT RADIO'S REPORTING THE YELLOW STREAK FLOWING IN WHATCOM CREEK	16.33.20
UPGRADE TO HAZMAT II	16.33.52
DON ALDERSON CALLS BACK SAYING HIS DOG IS HAVING SEIZURES	16.34.17
E-54 REPORTS IT IS A GASOLINE SPILL AND REQUESTS BAT. CHIEF AND POLICE TO CLOSE STREETS	16.34.27
TONES FOR HAZMAT II. BATTALION 1 AND MEDIC 1	16.34.55
E-54 REQUESTS PUBLIC WORKS TO HELP ASSIST	16.35.24
BATTALION 1 ENROUTE	16.33.00
PROSPECT ASKS IF E-51 WANTS SERP NOTIFIED	

E-51 SAYS "YES"	16.37.40
PUBLIC WORKS NOTIFIED	16.37.30
NEIL CLEMENT CALLS IN	16.40.05
HAZMAT 99 ASKS IF FULL RESPONSE IS NEEDED: "YES"	16.41.25
COMMAND REQUESTS PROSPECT TO CALL OLYMPIC PIPELINE TO HAVE THEM CHECK THE PIPE OVER WHATCOM CREEK	16.43.10
HATCHERY CONTACTED	16.43.44
PROSPECT CALLS A # FOR OLYMPIC PIPELINE AND LEAVES A MESSAGE ON THE RECORDER	16.45.25
PROSPECT CONTACTS OLYMPIC PIPELINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE # AND SOMEONE SAYS "WE GOT PEOPLE ON THE WAY AND OUR LINE IS SHUT DOWN AT THIS PARTICULAR POINT" ANOTHER PERSON COMES ON THE LINE AND IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS RON BRINSON, THE CONTROL CENTER SUPERVISOR. HE SAYS THEY HAVE FIELD PERSONNEL ON SITE (RICK KIENE)	16.46.30
PROSPECT ADVISES COMMAND THAT THE HATCHERY WAS NOTIFIED AND THAT OLYMPIC PIPELINE HAS PERSONNEL ON SITE AND PIPELINE IS SHUT DOWN.	16.48.15
COMMAND ASKS IF PIPELINE CONFIRMED THEY HAD A LEAKPROSPECT ADVISES "NO"	
COAST GUARD NOTIFIED BY PD DISPATCH	16.49.30
COMMAND ASKS FOR TRAFFIC SUPERVISOR AND "TO GET MOST EVERYONE THEY HAVE" TO CLOSE BRIDGES OVER WHATCOM UNTIL THEY CAN DETERMINE EXPLOSIVE ZONE	16.50.20
PROSPECT ASKS IF COMMAND WANTS KGMI NOTIFIED	16.50.43
FIRST NOTIFICATION TO KGMI ATTEMPTED (NO ANSWER)	16.51.00
KGMI CONTACTED	16.53.10
L-41 REPORTS TO DRIVER: L.E.L 5 AT THE BRIDGE	16.53.44
RADIO TRAFFIC: L.E.L IS MAXED OUT AT BRIDGE	16.55.22
ANDY DAY CALLS IN AND TELLS PROSPECT TO NOTIFY STAFF	16.57.00
OLYMPIC PIPELINE COMPANY CALLS TO REPORT A POSSIBLE RELEASE INTO WHATCOM CREEK (CALLER SANY GIBSON)	16.57.53
RADIO TRAFFIC FROM MEDIC 1: "LOOK AT THE HILL" UNK: "IT'S RUNNING. IT'S RUNNING. GET OUT OF THE WAY"	17.02.36
REQUEST THAT PROSPECT GET FULL ENGINE RESPONSE	17.03.24
REQUEST THAT PUGET POWER BE NOTIFIED> THEIR LINES MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED	17.03.40

TRANSMOUNTAIN PIPELINE CALLS TO CHECK IF THEIR LINES ARE INVOLVED	17.17.50 17.20.10
RADIO REQUEST THAT EMERGENCY CALLOUT FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT BE CONTACTED	17.21.30
CHIEF PIERCE AND FIRE CHIEF LEIGH ON SCENE	17.24.00