

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2021

Suffolk

VIRGINIA

It's a good time to be in Suffolk

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PORTION OF SOUTHWEST BYPASS CLOSED FOLLOWING TRACTOR TRAILER FIRE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 19, 2021) The Suffolk Police Department and Suffolk Fire & Rescue are currently on the scene of a tractor trailer fire that has resulted in a hazardous materials incident.

Emergency Communications received the call at 11:29 a.m. advising of a tractor trailer fire on the Southwest Bypass headed towards Route 58 Northbound. There were no injuries.

Battalion Chief Chuck Knight advised that the driver of the tractor trailer was able to pull over to the shoulder of the road and detach the cab from the burning trailer to avoid extension. Suffolk Fire & Rescue crews were able to extinguish the fire that was confined to the trailer loaded with computer parts and batteries. Due to the contents and proximity to a nearby retention pond, a Virginia Emergency Management Hazardous Material Officer is on scene and will be assisting in ongoing clean-up efforts. Battalion Chief Knight further noted that the cab will be reconnected to the trailer in order to move it from the roadway to another location so as not to further impede traffic. There, the burned contents and debris can be offloaded and separated from the other contents for then further transport.

These efforts are anticipated to take several hours, and crews will remain on scene due to the smoldering contents.

One lane of travel and the right shoulder is currently closed. Traffic is continuing to flow without incident in one lane, and then will be reopened once the cab and trailer are moved.

The Fire Marshal's Office will be investigating the cause of the fire.

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