



# PRESS RELEASE

## Darien-Woodridge Fire District

7550 Lyman Ave  
Darien, IL 60561



### **Contact Information:**

Chief Wayne Messenger 630-910-2200  
Fire Prevention Director Robert Morris 630-514-1693 (Cell)

Date: April 2, 2008

### ***For Immediate Release***

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## Gasoline Tanker Truck Fire

At 3:50 PM, on April 2, 2008, Darien-Woodridge fire units responded to a report of a tanker truck accident and fire at the entrance ramp to southbound I-55, from northbound Lemont Road. Upon arrival of the first unit three minutes later, they found an overturned tanker truck, fully involved in fire. Crews were quickly able to determine that the driver had escaped from the truck, and had suffered burn injuries. He was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, and was later transferred to the burn unit at Stroger Hospital in Chicago.

Due to the location of the accident, no fire hydrants were nearby, so hose had to be stretched over 2,000 from the closest fire hydrant to the fire engine.

Initial extinguishing efforts were hampered due to environmental concerns. Prior to extinguishing the fire, sand had to be brought in to dike the area. This allowed for any contaminated runoff to be contained to a small area. As there was no fire exposure hazards, the fire was allowed to burn until this was accomplished.

Due to the seriousness of the fire, an extra alarm was immediately sounded bringing mutual aid to the scene from many surrounding communities, as well as crews to cover Darien-Woodridge fire stations. The call was later escalated to a second alarm bringing in more equipment. In addition to mutual aid received from the local communities, assistance was also received from the Citgo refinery in Romeoville, and from the Chicago Fire Department who sent an airport crash truck containing foam. The fire was extinguished using the Chicago crash truck, and the final overhaul of the fire was done by Citgo.

As a precaution, a nearby business was evacuated.

No injuries, other than the driver, were reported. Crews will remain on the scene for some time, until the remaining product is transferred to another vehicle, and the scene is safe. No damage estimates are available at this time.

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