

Critical Incident Review

Alligator Alley, I-75 Northbound (west) near MM 63 in front of rest area

General incident details: **Truck crash with fire, one fatality, one injured. The incident duration was over 14 hours.**

Date of event: **January 26, 2010** Time: **5:00 AM** Weather: **Dry, clear, dark**

Tuesday morning January 26, 2010 at approximately 5:00 AM there was a crash involving two tractor trailers. A flatbed semi carrying lumber was struck in the rear at high speed by a loaded cargo van carrying cases of Coke. The tractor of the Coke truck burst into flames. The driver of the Coke truck appears to have been killed upon impact.

The roadway was covered by crash debris, spilled lumber and burning diesel fuel. The fire also consumed the rear of the flatbed trailer along with a portion of the wood cargo. The entire tractor of the Coke truck, including the tires and a portion of the front wall of the trailer, burned or melted.

A unit from FHP arrived followed by EMS and multiple Fire Rescue units. A short time later a Road Ranger, Collier Sheriffs car and DBI (FDOT's asset maintenance contractor) arrived. FHP called a class C wrecker company from their rotation list, Keith's Towing. The RISC (Rapid Incident Scene Clearance) program was not activated.

Responders at the scene were able to start traffic slowly moving past the crash by routing vehicles off the rest area exit ramp and then immediately back on entrance ramp. Crews continued to work to extinguish the fire and remove lumber from on top of the Coke tractor to expose and remove the deceased body. An attempt by the tow company was unsuccessful in trying to pull the trucks apart. The Medical Examiner, along with Troopers, conducted their investigations.

DBI was requested to establish upgraded MOT and allow the Road Rangers to return to patrol for disabled vehicles in the traffic back-up.

A towing company with a rotator arrived from Broward County. This company was hired by the Coke company. Roll-off dumpsters and bob cats also arrived. Clean-up continued and a decision was made to off-load the remaining product from the Coke trailer still in the roadway. The cases of coke were reloaded into another trailer.

The wrecked crash vehicles, debris and cargo were cleared at approximately 6:30 PM but the alley remained closed for pavement required repairs.

DBI made emergency repairs to the roadway and at 7:21PM notified the RTMC that the lanes were clear; however, personnel and equipment were still on the shoulder. All DBI vehicles left the scene and the incident was cleared at 7:40 PM.