



PERQUIMANS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Jonathan A. Nixon, Director

PRESS RELEASE – Tractor Trailer Overturned on Ocean Highway

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2022

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On Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 11:37 am, the Perquimans County 911 Center received multiple calls for an accident involving a tractor trailer at the intersection of Ocean Highway and Highway 37.

A Deputy Sheriff initially arrived on scene to find a single vehicle tractor trailer rolled onto its side. The vehicle had one occupant who was able to self-extricate. Firefighters arrived on scene and evaluated the vehicle for possible hazardous materials. Upon EMS arriving on scene, the patient was evaluated and further transported to ECU Health Chowan Hospital. Due to the truck blocking both northbound lanes of Ocean Highway, the Chowan and Perquimans County Sheriff's Offices worked to divert traffic at Thick Neck Road and onto Burnt Mill Road for approximately four hours. The tractor trailer was fully loaded which hindered being able to quickly move it and required two commercial wreckers, one of which came from the Outer Banks. After the removal of the truck, firefighters, NC Department of Transportation, and emergency management personnel worked to ensure the road was safe for vehicles to travel on due to minor fluid leaks.

Those responding to the incident included Bethel Fire Department, Hertford Fire Department, the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, Perquimans County EMS, Perquimans County Emergency Management, the NC State Highway Patrol, NC Department of Transportation for both Perquimans and Chowan Counties, the Chowan County Sheriff's Office and Seto's Towing.

Hertford Assistant Fire Chief Matthew Woodell initially established Incident Command and transferred to Bethel Fire Chief Darren Saunders upon his arrival, who continued per established National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines. Chief Saunders stated, "I would like to thank each of the first responders that supported this incident. Shutting down a major highway is not easy for first responders or the community, and we appreciate the teamwork and patience to make this incident safer for everyone involved."

This incident is under further investigation by the NC State Highway Patrol.


