

August 5, 2010 / For Immediate Release

CP Train Derailment; Airdrie, Alberta – August 5 Morning UPDATE

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Transloading of the anhydrous ammonia from rail car to truck at the site of the train derailment north of Airdrie is progressing safely and efficiently. There have been no releases of vapour and no complications to date. Three cars carrying the product have been off-loaded, but remain on site. Three more cars are being off-loaded today and three further cars remain to be transloaded.

Crews continue to work on the recovery of product under strict monitoring protocols for air quality and other environmental and weather conditions that could affect the recovery process. This is expected to take a few more days.

Residents are asked to continue to monitor www.airdrie.ca and local media for any further instructions and ensure they are familiar with the shelter in place procedures which can be found at www.airdrie.ca.

“We expect the process will continue to go smoothly, however, we are taking every precaution and maintaining existing emergency plans in the unlikely event they are required, says Sheldon Leavitt, Airdrie Fire Department Chief. The Emergency Operations Centre continues to run 24 hours a day and will remain operational until the risk to residents has been removed.”

The rail cars containing non-hazardous goods were removed from the site Wednesday allowing crews to focus on the recovery of the anhydrous ammonia.

Background Information:

Just after 7:00 am on Tuesday, August 3, a southbound CP train derailed approximately 1.5 km north of Airdrie; south of township road 274 and north of Veterans Blvd.. Thirty cars derailed, some sustaining heavy damage. Roads remain closed surrounding the site, please avoid the area and take alternate routes. Investigation is currently underway, a cause has not been determined at this time.

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