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Governor

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Transportation Secretary

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Press Release

Hazardous Materials Spill In Chaves County

Chaves County – The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is helping contain a hazardous materials spill just north of Roswell. The spill has prompted evacuations and road closures.

At 1 p.m. today, a semi-truck crashed on U.S. 285 just several miles from Roswell. The truck was carrying Sodium Hydroxide Solution, which can be extremely dangerous when it comes into contact with water. There is a potential for rain in the area.

The off ramp for U.S. 285 to the Relief Route is closed as well as both lanes of the Relief Route and a section of Pine Lodge Road.

An approximately one mile radius in that area has been evacuated. The evacuation is expected to remain in place for up to ten hours.

NMDOT crews are covering the spill with sand. Fire crews will then place a tarp over the sand to prevent it from spreading.

The truck's driver, Sue Joe Sharabi of Sherman, Texas was not hurt. The truck belongs to Conway Truck Loads.

The New Mexico State Police Department is handling the investigation.

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For more information contact Manon Arnett, District 2 Public Information Officer, New Mexico Department of Transportation (575) 201-8283 or Melissa Doshier, Public Information Officer, New Mexico Department of Transportation (505) 469-5698