



Sheriff Mark N. Dion
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
36 County Way
Portland, Maine 04102

Press Release

March 2, 2007

On 03/02/2007 at 6:01 a.m. the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, Orr's and Bailey Island Fire and Rescue responded to a reported accident on Route 24 at the Orr's Island Bridge. A large single axel plow/sand truck was traveling south on Rt. 24 at the Orr's Island Bridge and slid off the road, smashing threw the steel guardrail and sank to the bottom of the channel (approximately 15-20 feet of water) that runs under the Orr's Island Bridge. The Vehicle is owned/operated by Crooker's Construction of Topsham and was being operated by one of their employees who was plowing and sanding the road as part of the contract with the Town of Harpswell.

The Driver:

Thomas R. Collins Jr. DOB 10-20-77
Ridgewood Dr.
Topsham, Me

Was able to free himself and swim to shore, he was transported to Midcoast Hospital by Orr's & Bailey Island Rescue, with non life threatening injuries.

Ted Crooker, Vice President of Crookers, as well as, Richard Perkins, Safety Director, were contacted and responded to the scene.

The U.S. Coast Guard was called as the truck is blocking a working navigational channel.

Additionally, DEP was contacted and responded due to the potential of 50 to 100 gallons of Diesel fuel leaking into the bay and mud flat area. Once all parties meet an assessment will be made about when and how it will be best to remove the Truck. Given the conditions and location, there will be either a partial or

complete road closure for several hours when this happens. Due to current weather conditions it will not be safe to attempt the removal until the weather and road conditions improve.

The preliminary investigation, as to the cause of the accident, is being contributed to poor driving conditions. The accident remains under investigation at this time.

Additional questions can be referred to Captain Donald Goulet @ 774-1444 ext. 2210.

Prepared by,
Captain Goulet

UPDATED INFORMATION

Weather conditions permitting, at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 3rd. specialty equipment (crane(s) and wreckers) will be brought in along with Recovery Diver's and Clean Harbor's of Maine to remove the Truck from the channel. Local Fire personnel and the Sheriff's Office will also be on scene. All efforts will be made to keep one lane of travel open, there's a possibility that a complete road closure could happen if conditions warrant. Motorists and Resident's should expect delays, the removal is expected to take 3 to 6 hours.