



# *Winchester Fire and Rescue*

FIRE, RESCUE, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

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## **SAFETY BULLETIN SB-10001**

TO: All Fire Department Personnel  
FROM: Scott Kensinger, Captain  
RE: White Powdery Liquid Haz Mat Incident in Montgomery County  
Date: September 15, 2010

On August 22, 2010, a hazmat incident occurred in Montgomery County involving white powdery liquid that was omitted from a Crown Victoria cab. This cab had a built-in fire suppression system, and this powdery substance was accidentally activated by the cab driver.

Montgomery County units responded to this incident. Please read the attached report and be aware of recent changes in vehicle design and construction in order to ensure thorough inner and outer circle checks are completed on all events involving vehicles, such as with the attached Incident Summary.



# Special Ops

Monday, August 30, 2010

# Incident Summary

**Incident Location** Old Georgetown & Battery lane  
**Location Description** Apartments parking lot  
**Incident Date** August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010  
**Incident Type** White powdery liquid

## Event Summary

A Barwood cab was parked overnight in the parking lot of the apartments across from Rescue 1. Rescue 1 personnel heard a bang and observed a cloud of white smoke produced when the cab started to leave. The cab driver left the scene without stopping to explain the event.

A white powdery liquid was observed to be on the ground, under and around the cab, as it drove away. The cab's underbody and tires were also covered in the material as it left the scene.

Personnel from Rescue 1 called ECC to initiate a hazmat response and also called Barwood with the cab number to gather more information. Based on the description of the event given by the cab driver, a request was made to have the taxi return.

Rescue 1 established a hot zone and had the hazmat response stage on side Bravo of the station.

**Units Involved** RS741 HM707 C741B SA700 MCPD

## Hazmat Actions

The hazmat action plan was to get a sample and identify the liquid that was pretty much dried up leaving a white residue. While getting the sample, the taxi arrived back on scene. The driver had washed the vehicle before returning to the scene. The driver advised that the Crown Vic had a fire suppression system built in to the vehicle. The driver accidentally set the system off by pressing a red manual activation button then drove off.

## Summary

Fire Rescue personnel observed a suspicious event, the bang and white liquid discharge, from the cab. An appropriate response was initiated by calling for police and hazmat resources for investigation and sampling.

## Lesson Learned

All personnel should always ensure thorough inner and outer circle checks are completed on all events involving vehicles. Additional attention is warranted with the recent changes in vehicle design and construction.



# Special Ops

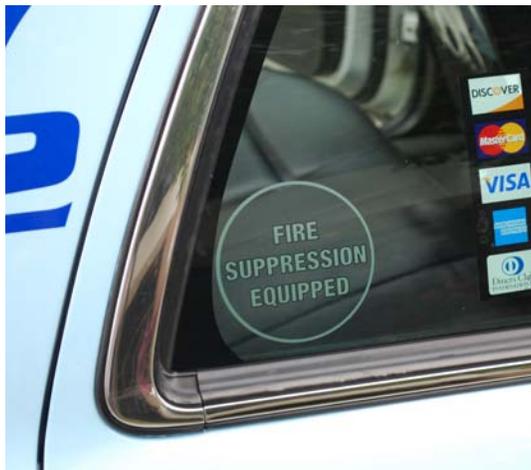
Monday, August 30, 2010

# Incident Summary

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## Incident Location

Old Georgetown Rd & Battery Lane



*Interior manual activation button*



*Under car nozzles*

## Fire Suppression design

The fire suppression system is designed to sense a high-speed, high-energy rear impact and discharge the fire suppressant material underneath the vehicle and onto the fuel tank, slowing the spread of a fire, or potentially extinguishing a fire. The system is not deployed immediately, but when the vehicle comes to a stop, or at six seconds, whichever occurs first. Development testing showed that the best time for deploying the fire suppressant is near the point of rest, which may be more than 60 m (200 ft) away from the point of impact. The system can also be discharged manually with a button on the front headliner. The ignition must be in the RUN position for the manual button to operate.

The actual discharging operation uses a hybrid (nitrogen and CO2) gas generator, similar to that used to deploy an airbag. Also similar to an airbag operation, the system uses two impact sensors. In order to determine the most appropriate time to deploy the foam, the system also measures post-impact vehicle movement.

**For more information and pictures copy and paste the string.**

[http://autospeed.com/cms/title\\_OnBoard-Fire-Suppression-System/A\\_108256/article.html](http://autospeed.com/cms/title_OnBoard-Fire-Suppression-System/A_108256/article.html)