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PRESS RELEASE

Update on Interstate 70 crash in Grand Junction

(Grand Junction, CO) – Interstate 70 in Grand Junction is closed between Exit 26 (22 Road) and Exit 37 (32 Road/Clifton) in both directions for an undetermined amount of time, while multiple law enforcement, fire and engineering crews investigate an early morning semi-truck crash that killed one person and impacted the 26 ½ Road overpass. The 26 ½ Road overpass is closed for an extended period of time due to the extensive structural damage to the bridge.

Motorist Advisory:

Motorists are advised that they should exit Interstate 70 at Exit 26 (22 Road) to U.S. Hwy 6 from the west, and Exit 37 (32 Road/Clifton) to the I-70 Business Loop from the east. The diversion will require approximately 35-40 minutes in additional drive time.

Residents of north Grand Junction can enter Interstate 70 Eastbound from Horizon Drive, but all other entrances and exits at Horizon Drive are closed. Motorists can also enter I-70 westbound at Exit 26 (22 Road). Grand Junction Regional Airport employees and customers can access the airport via F Road.

Incident Information:

The incident occurred around 3:00 a.m. today, when a westbound truck tractor pulling a cargo box struck a main support to the 26 ½ Road Overpass bridge, killing one occupant and engulfing the truck and overpass in flames. The semi was carrying 11 55-gallon drums of sodium hypochlorite, which is a 10% solution of bleach. The chemical was diluted significantly when Grand Junction Fire personnel put out the fire. Hazmat crews say the chemical does not present any health hazards for the public or emergency crews on scene. The semi also contained other items including brand name cleaning liquids and industrial hardware.

(MORE)

The Colorado Department of Transportation is leading the assessment of the structural damage to the bridge and will determine the extent of time that the Interstate may be closed. Information about CDOT's assessment should be directed to CDOT PIO Michael Goolsby in Grand Junction at (970) 216-1778.

The Grand Junction Police Department is conducting the accident investigation with assistance from the Colorado State Patrol and Mesa County Sheriff's Office. The Grand Junction Fire Department is handling fire, medical and hazardous materials response.

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