

Guernsey, Saskatchewan (2020)

Location: Guernsey, Saskatchewan

File number: 1201-04

TSB Investigation Number: R20W0025

The Accident

According to the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) report, on February 6, 2020, a Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) crude oil unit train, destined for Stroud, Oklahoma, experienced a train-initiated emergency brake application at Mile 43.64 to the west of Guernsey, Saskatchewan. TSB confirmed that train consisted of two locomotives, a covered hopper car loaded with sand and 104 DOT 117J100-W tank cars loaded with petroleum crude oil - UN 1267. As a result, 32 tank cars derailed, all of which carried crude oil. Of the derailed tank cars, 27 were breached and released 1.6 million liters of petroleum crude oil was released. The oil spilled resulted in a pool fire involving 19 tank cars.

Damages

No injuries reported, however as a precaution, the town of Guernsey evacuated approximately 85 residents.

No impact to waterways.

CP's emergency response worked to clean and restore the affected areas. The Railway Company said it would implement a soil remediation plan based on the tests being done by its specialized experts in consultation with the local authorities.

TSB has reported the cause of the incident is suspected to be a broken rail.

Measures Taken by the Administrator

The Administrator's office reached out to CP Claims Department who predicted that the damages incurred from the incident would not likely utilize CP's insurance.

The Fund for Railway Accidents Involving Designated Goods (the Fund) consulted available reporting from the TSB's Rail Transportation Safety Investigations database. Based on the available data and the extent of damages resulted from the accident, it is most unlikely that the Fund will be triggered for compensation purposes.

Status

The file remains open as of September 2022.

Related files

1201-03, Lanigan (9 December 2019), very close to this accident's location and same railway company.