



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

RE: Vacuum Gas Oil Release on Highways 20 and 39 on January 25, 2024

To the residents of Breton and in the Counties of Brazeau, Wetaskiwin and Leduc,

We at Torq Trucking (2015) Ltd. (Torq) take this matter and any disruption and worry this incident has caused you and your families very seriously. We would like to assure you that the situation is under control, and we are working hard to safely return the highway and surrounding area to its previous state. At Torq, we believe in honesty and accountability, which is why we think it is important to communicate the scope of the situation fully and clearly.

What Happened

On the evening of Thursday, January 25, 2024, at around 20:40 MST, approximately 31m³ of a substance called vacuum gas oil (VGO) was released onto around 20 kilometres of road on Highways 20 and 39 near Breton, Alberta. As a result, the authorities have closed approximately 40 kilometers in your region. It appears that the VGO escaped from a transportation trailer hauled by one of our third-party subcontractor trucks. The release was quickly spotted, and our teams along with the local RCMP acted decisively to both halt the leaking trailer and cordon off the affected area.

We would like to thank the RCMP for their continued involvement and support during this incident, along with the passers-by who spotted the leak and informed the authorities. We would also like to thank the CAO of Breton and all the community members, regulators, and service providers that have provided support.

As of 18:00 MST, Wednesday, January 31, 2024, we are working to conclusively determine the cause of the release and will provide more information when we have certainty. All Torq-led inspections on the trailer were up to date prior to the incident. We are ensuring we are thorough, and are working closely with subcontractors, local authorities, and third-party investigators to conduct interviews and perform further inspections of all equipment involved. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

What is Vacuum Gas Oil (VGO)?

VGO is a common byproduct of crude oil extraction and refinement and is a non-regulated product. This simply means that it is not subject to any technical regulation because it is considered a lower-risk product and is not classified as a dangerous good by Transport Canada. It is however, a byproduct of crude oil extraction and proper PPE should be worn when handling it. Out of an abundance of caution, we recommend that you minimize contact with the product and rely on our contractors for cleanup and removal.

If your vehicle has been exposed to VGO, we encourage you to head to the specialized car wash station we have set up in partnership with the Village of Breton. This contained car wash is free of charge to you and can be found at Breton Waste Transfer Station (locally known as 'the dump'), 5207 - 52nd Street in Breton, AB.

Who We Are

Torq Trucking (2015) Ltd. is an independent trucking logistics company providing a wide range of trucking and logistics services for partners across western Canada. We were founded in 2011 and are currently headquartered in Calgary, Alberta. As part of our operations, we regularly work with third-party subcontractors to provide additional services as needed – as was the case in this incident. We have never had a spill or incident of this nature since our inception. Rest assured we are driven to find the root cause and do all we can to ensure something like this never happens again.

Torq Trucking (2015) Ltd.
Suite 1810, 250- 6th Ave SW,
Calgary, AB, T2P 3H7
1-855-923-3123



Next Steps

First and foremost: **we are working around the clock to resolve the situation.** Since the incident we have been focused on the recovery and remediation of your community. We thank you very much for your cooperation, patience and understanding during this challenging process.

In addition to organizing and aiding the clean-up operations so that the roads can be reopened as soon as possible, we are working with third-party environmental regulators to monitor and analyze any potential environmental contamination.

As of 18:00 MST, Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 92 environmental samples have been taken for screening. Of these 92 samples:

- 58 are from affected residential driveways;
- 10 are from lands adjacent to water crossings; and,
- 8 are from key intersections.

We are analyzing all samples for petroleum hydrocarbons according to the Alberta Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guidelines (AEPA, 2023). **Initial findings do not reveal any adverse effects to the affected areas.** We are continuing to monitor, and we will share an update once we have those findings.

Because the incident occurred in winter conditions, we will need to continue to monitor the surrounding environment throughout the year. We will continue to be vigilant in our monitoring and completely transparent in our reporting, until we are certain that all impacts have been identified and contained.

Contact Torq 24/7

We understand that this is a concerning situation for many and we are working hard to limit any disruption or worry this has caused.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of our team directly, you can **call 1-855-923-3123 at any time of the day.**

Sincerely,

Torq Trucking

Torq Trucking (2015) Ltd.
Suite 1810, 250- 6th Ave SW,
Calgary, AB, T2P 3H7
1-855-923-3123