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From Staff Reports

CECIL – A multiple-vehicle crash on US 24 near Cecil on Tuesday morning reportedly claimed the life of one person and closed the highway for several hours due to a chemical spill.

As of 5 p.m., US 24 remains closed from US 127 to Indiana 101 at Woodburn. Traffic is being rerouted to old 24 thru Antwerp. Traffic is reported to be congested around Antwerp.

US 24 likely will remain closed until at least 9pm tonight as crews work to remove semis from the scene. They also must clean up the chemical spill at the site.

Numerous fire departments, EMS squads and other emergency responders from the county went to the scene, including a HAZMAT team from Defiance County.

The crash occurred just before 8 a.m. near Road 87 west of Cecil. Ohio Highway Patrol troopers said 10 semis and two passenger vehicles were involved. A member of the Van Wert Post said the accident started with a vehicle failing to yield the right of way off Road 87. Fog may have been a factor.

One truck was a tanker filled with ethanol, which was leaking.

At one point, responders reported a person was trapped in a vehicle and requested a Jaws of Life.

At least one person was injured and transported to Paulding County Hospital.

Both the eastbound and westbound lanes were shut down due to the ethanol leak.

US 24 was closed between Ohio 49 and US 127 and traffic was diverted.

Red Cross representatives from Paulding, Defiance and Van Wert counties were on scene to help responders and motorists stranded in traffic. McDonald's in Paulding donated 110 sandwiches, Paulding VFW donated coffee and Chief provided water.