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The Telegraph

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Truck wreck, fire shuts down I-75

Accident involving tractor-trailer carrying lighters tied up traffic until midday

By Phillip Ramati
TELEGRAPH STAFF WRITER

Interstate 75 reopened this afternoon after being closed for several hours after a tractor-trailer accident.

The truck carrying butane lighters overturned at about 8 a.m. this morning, causing a fire and blocking off Interstate 75 north at the Interstate 16 east interchange as emergency response crews worked to clear the scene. I-75 reopened about 1:45 p.m., according to Macon police.

Marvin Riggins, assistant chief for the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department, said the driver of the truck apparently swerved and lost control of the vehicle, causing it to overturn. Inside the truck, the lighters caught on fire.

Because of limited water access on the highway, fire fighters were forced to set up a relay system on Riverside Drive, where there is hydrant access, and connect lines off the bridge over I-75 down to the accident scene. Riggins said it took about 20 minutes to put the fire out.



Woody Marshall, The Telegraph

A container truck loaded with butane lighters turned over Wednesday morning on Interstate 75 north at the Interstate 16 split. It caught on fire and blocked the northbound lanes for hours while Macon-Bibb County firefighters worked to put out the fire.

■ [View a photo gallery of the fire](#)

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"It made for an interesting situation for us," Riggins said of the water relays. "We had limited water access (on the highway) and had to get the water from Riverside Drive."

The driver of the truck was not injured, and no other cars traveling at the same time were involved with the wreck. A firefighter had to be transported to The Medical Center of Central Georgia after falling from a truck while trying to free the hoses to transport the water. His injuries are unknown at this point.

Riggins said that firefighters used a special fuel emulsifier called F-500 to treat the butane spilled at the scene of the accident. The emulsifier reduces the risk of spreading the fire and environmental damage.

Macon police and the Georgia Department of Transportation were also at the scene and were investigating the accident.

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