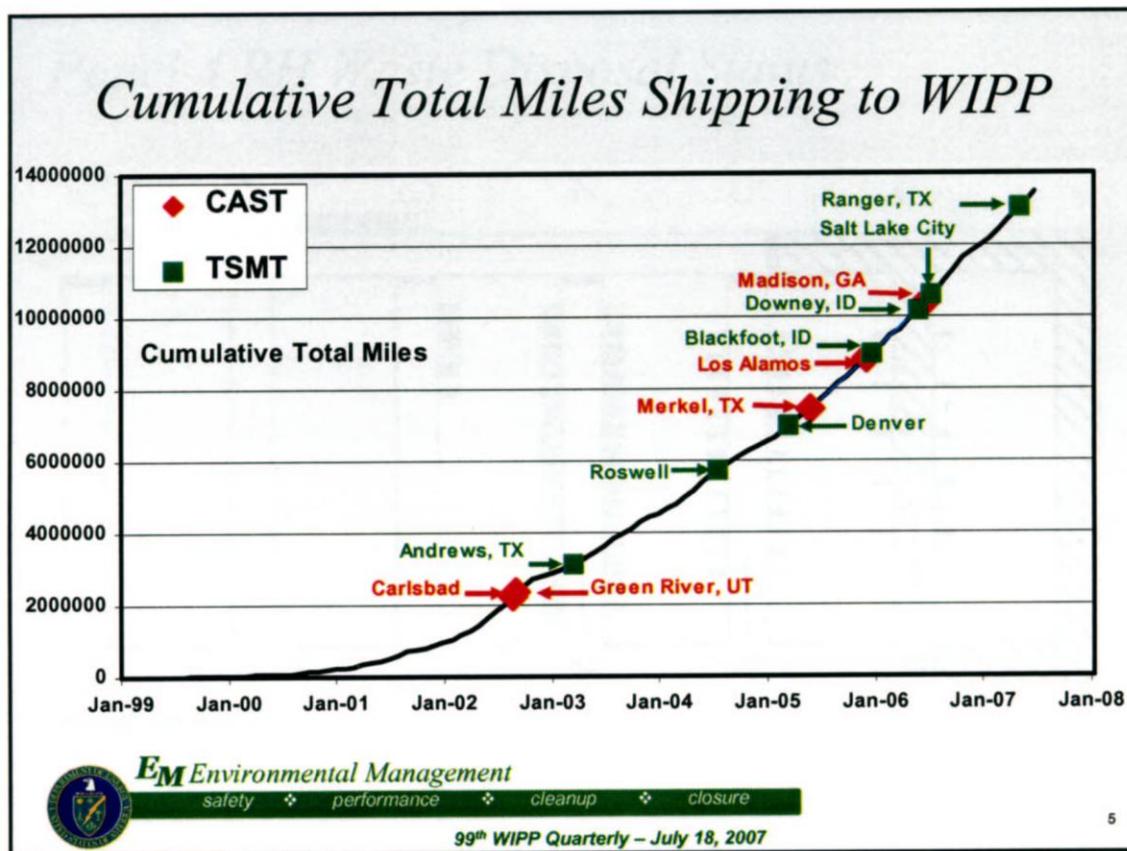


WIPP Transport Accidents – 2002 - 2009



From 2002 through 2007, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), which is responsible for WIPP's operations, counted twelve shipping accidents, shown on the graphic.

None of the accidents resulted in a known release of radioactive or hazardous chemicals.

Four additional accidents occurred in 2008 and 2009, according to CBFO.

March 11, 2008 – WIPP shipment IN080076 was involved in an accident. The driver started coughing uncontrollably and left the road (I-25) north of Las Vegas, NM and ran through a snow fence. No damage was done to the tractor, trailer, or TRUPACTs. The driver was cited by the police, and his employment was terminated. Replacement drivers delivered the waste shipment to WIPP.

April 24, 2009 – WIPP shipment IN090173 was involved in a vehicle accident in Federal Heights, CO. The accident involved four private vehicles, one of which rear-ended another and caused it to impact the front passenger side bumper of the WIPP transport truck. The trailer and packages were not impacted. The Colorado Highway Patrol (CHP) arrived on scene and later moved the WIPP transport truck to a safer location where they performed a level one inspection,

which found minor damage to the left front bumper cover, and released the shipment to continue to WIPP. The CAST Safety Manager from Henderson CO. also arrived on scene and transported the truck driver to a nearby clinic to perform the required post accident medical tests. According to the CHP Incident Commander and CAST Safety Manager on scene there do not at this time appear to be any injuries sustained.

April 25, 2009 - WIPP shipment IN090182 was involved in a vehicle accident 4.8 miles northeast of Echo Utah, which is 26 miles west of the Wyoming State line. The accident involved a private vehicle that spun out when it attempted to pass the WIPP transport truck. This vehicle impacted the driver side rear axles on the WIPP transport tractor causing damage to one tire and the fender bracket. The trailer and packages were not impacted.

The WIPP transport truck moved to a safe location off the road where the tire was replaced and the fender was removed. Utah State Patrol responded and after a level I inspection released the drivers and transport to continue to WIPP. According to the drivers on scene there do not at this time appear to be any injuries sustained.

June 1, 2009 - WIPP shipment IN090264 was involved in an accident south of Arimo, Idaho on I-15 near mile marker 40. The accident involved one private vehicle that rear-ended a WIPP trailer transport carrying three TRUPACT-II's. There were no damages to the packages and only minor scuffs to the rear of the trailer. Idaho State Police responded and requested an ambulance for the driver of the POV due to complaints of neck pain; the driver was transported from the scene by ambulance after being issued a citation. The WIPP drivers were not injured. The Idaho State Police inspected the truck and trailer for safe travel and then escorted the WIPP transport to a safer location and satisfactorily completed a Level IV CVSA inspection. At approximately 4:10 pm (MDT) truck and trailer were found to be defect free and the shipment was released to continue to WIPP.

Further details about some of the 2002-2007 accidents

August 25, 2002 – WIPP shipment IN020271 with two TRUPACT-II's was hit by drunk driver on US 62-180 near Carlsbad, resulting in minor damage to the trailer. No radiation releases were detected at the accident site. But at the WIPP site, TRUPACT-II #157 showed possible airborne contamination within the inner containment vessel at WIPP. That TRUPACT-II was shipped back to INL. The TRUPACT-II was opened at INL on January 27, 2003. INL officials concluded that one 55-gallon drum lock-ring was not properly closed prior to shipment, allowing some contamination on the drum surface.

September 7, 2002 – WIPP shipment from INL goes off of I-80 near Green River, WY [not UT, as the graphic shows] when the driver blacked out. There was minor damage to the tractor, the shipment was returned to INL and no contamination was detected. The shipment was then sent to WIPP.

March 19, 2003 – A WIPP truck carrying no waste on its way to SRS was hit by a pickup truck in Andrews, TX. The WIPP trailer fender and two tires were damaged. The trailer was repaired and the truck went on to SRS.

July 23, 2004 – WIPP Shipment from Rocky Flats (CO) was struck by a car on the Roswell relief route at about 11 p.m. The tractor sustained minor damage to the right front fender and wheel hub. A relief tractor was sent and brought the shipment to WIPP on July 24.

August 19, 2004 – An estimated 36 vehicles were involved in chain reaction crashes on I-80 between Cheyenne and Laramie, WY at 1:45 p.m. A WIPP shipment from Hanford avoided the accident and was not damaged, as the driver pulled off the road into a shallow ditch. The two drivers helped pull passengers from burning vehicles and assisted emergency responders. The shipment stayed at Warren Air Force Base overnight and then went to WIPP the next day.

June 2, 2005 – WIPP shipment SR050060 was hit from behind by a passing 18-wheel-tractor trailer on I-20 near Merkel, TX. The WIPP trailer had damage to the left rear fender, reflectors, and mud flap. The reflectors were repaired and the shipment proceeded to WIPP.

December 27, 2005 – A WIPP truck carrying no waste on its way to INL overturned on I-15 near Blackfoot, ID. The three empty TRUPACT-IIs were strewn on both sides of the roadway. The driver was cited by Idaho State Police for inattentive driving.

June 2, 2006 – A WIPP shipment from INL was rear-ended by a pickup truck on I-15 near Downey, ID. The trailer received damage to the suspension and rear axle. The truck was repaired and returned to INL.

May 11, 2007 – WIPP shipment from SRS hit a Jersey Barrier in a construction zone on I-20 near Ranger, TX. The barrier had been displaced by an east-bound tractor-trailer. The WIPP tractor had tire and suspension damage that was repaired and the shipment then continued to WIPP.

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