



Henry County Emergency Management Agency

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Saturday, May 24, 2003 the city of New Castle's Fire Department was called to a fire at New Castle Auto Parts (a local automobile junkyard). Upon arrival we found approximately 100 cars on fire. This was soon to change!

In some locations the cars were stacked 4 high and as many as 15 deep. A five-inch supply line was laid into Ladder One and a master stream operation was immediately set up. Due to water supplies and the wind, we had our hands full. The fire was burning in places that we just couldn't get enough water into before it had spread to the next car. Before the event was under control, 1600 +/- vehicles had burned, we also had airborne and surface contamination to contend with. The airborne contaminants were moving Northeast and dropping back down to ground level approximately 2 miles from the fire scene. Evacuations were performed by law enforcement and Search and Rescue members, Haz-Mat representatives from State Fire Marshals Office and the Madison County provided the necessary air-monitoring operations and also assisted in the evacuations.

Surface contaminants that were contained in the water runoff flowed along the Norfolk and Southern Railroad moving west. After it had flowed from the 2800 block to the 1800 block it drained into an open storm sewer. It was then trapped in the containment ponds at the sewage treatment plant for later treatment.

A fire brake was cut through the wall of vehicles just before the bulk used tire piles and two fire engines with master streams were set to flow water into the advancing fire. The engines were able to halt the advancing fire before it made it to the fire brake.

By the time that this event was over, several agencies had worked very well together.

This list demonstrates how many agencies can be involved in something as simple as a junkyard fire.

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| 1 Channel 6 News | On Site | 15 Indiana Department of Transportation | On Site |
| 2 Channel 8 News | On Site | 16 Indiana State Fire Marshals Office | On Site |
| 3 Channel 13 News - (+ Helicopter) | On Site | 17 Lewisville Vol. Fire Department | On Site |
| 4 Environmental Protection Agency | Telephone | 18 Liberty Twp. Vol. Fire Department | On Site |
| 5 Henry County Central Dispatch | Radio | 19 Madison County Hazardous Materials Team | On Site |
| 6 Henry County Emergency Management | On Site | 20 Mt. Summit Vol. Fire Department | On Site |
| 7 Henry County Hazardous Materials Response | On Site | 21 National Response Center | Telephone |
| 8 Henry County Highway Garage | On Site | 22 New Castle Fire Department | On Site |
| 9 Henry County Red Cross | On Site | 23 New Castle Medics | On Site |
| 10 Henry County Search and Rescue | On Site | 24 New Castle Police | On Site |
| 11 Henry County Sheriffs Department | On Site | 25 New Castle Sewage Treatment Plant | On Site |
| 12 Henry County Sheriffs Department Reserves | On Site | 26 Norfolk and Southern Railroad | On Site |
| 13 Indiana Department of Environmental Management | On Site | 27 Print Media - Courier Times (Photographer) | On Site |
| 14 Indiana Department of Natural Resources | On Site | 28 Print Media - Star Press (Photographer) | On Site |
| | | 29 Spiceland Vol. Fire Department | On Site |

I would like to thank all those involved for their help!!!
You made our job much easier!

Thank you,
Ron Huffman
Lt New Castle Fire Department
Director, Henry County Emergency Management Agency