Train & Truck Collision in Tooele County

A Blanding, Utah truck driver survived a collision with a train in Tooele County Wednesday morning. A witness to the accident called Tooele County 911 Dispatch at about 10:12 a.m. The accident happened at the Union Pacific railroad crossing on Faust Road.

Witnesses say the truck driver was heading eastbound on Faust Road when the Union Pacific train, traveling northbound, struck the truck trailer near the middle of the tanker, separating it from the truck.

The driver, 43 year old David Pionke, was ejected from the vehicle. He was taken by Lifeflight to the Intermountain Medical Center in critical but stable condition. None of the train crew sustained any injuries.

The train was traveling at approximately 50 miles per hour. It traveled .35 miles, with the tanker wrapped around the front of the engine, before coming to a complete stop.

The truck and water tanker trailer belonged to EC Source. There was no diesel leaking from either the train or the truck.

Tooele County Chief Deputy Duke North said this is a rural railroad crossing. "There are no arms or lights at this crossing. With rural crossings it's important that drivers stop at every crossing and look both ways before proceeding," he said.

The Tooele County Sheriff's Office, Utah Highway Patrol, Rush Valley Fire Department, and TEAD/DCD Fire Department responded to the accident. The Sheriff's Office and Union Pacific Railroad are investigating the accident. The exact cause is unknown.

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