



CITY OF PASO ROBLES PRESS RELEASE

Industrial Accident – Niblick and South River Roads

For Immediate Release: Friday, October 03, 2008

The Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services (Fire Department) responded to a report of workers trapped in a trench filled with water. The call was received at approximately 8:50 p.m.

On arrival, fire department units found water ensuing from a trench near the intersection of Niblick and South River roads. The contract work crew was in the process of shutting down the water flow. The initial report was that three workers were in the trench when a water line break occurred and that one of them escaped. Two workers were carried down an underground pipe for an undetermined distance.

North County Technical Rescue Team (Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services and Atascadero Fire Department) and San Luis Obispo County Technical Rescue Team assistance was requested. City of Paso Robles Public Works crews responded immediately to initiate pumping. Once the water was evacuated, approximately 45 minutes after arrival, a two person rescue crew entered the pipe. One victim was located approximately 35 feet into the pipe, with the other being 70 feet. Both were pronounced dead at the scene. The identity of the victims was not immediately available.

A total of 23 firefighters from the Department of Emergency Services, Atascadero Fire Department, CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire were committed to the incident. The Paso Robles Police Department assisted with traffic and crowd control. A San Luis Ambulance Service unit remained on standby.

The cause of the water line break was unknown. Safety officials remain on scene to investigate the cause and circumstances.

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