

City of Walla Walla Fire Department
Station 1 - 200 S 12th AVE, Walla Walla, WA 99362
Station 2 - 170 N Wilbur AVE, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Incident Date: 09/14/2023

Incident Type: 411-Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill

Incident Number: 2023-00005364

Exposure: 0



Fire Report for Records Request

CALL DETAILS

Property Use: 449-Hotel/motel, commercial

Incident Location Type: 2-Intersection

Address: 6 W-West ROSE ST-Street

Incident Cross Street: N 3RD AVE / N 2ND AVE, E ROSE ST

Walla Walla, WA 99362

District: CWWFD-11150

Incident Type: 411-Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill

Aid Given or Received: None

Alarm Date Time: 09/14/2023 15:31:44

Shift: C

Arrival Date Time: 09/14/2023 15:32:09

Type of Alarm: Fire - Station 1

Primary Action Taken: 86-Investigate

Last Unit Cleared Date Time: 09/14/2023 23:06:29

Resource Used: Y-Yes

Hazardous Materials Release: 0-Special HazMat actions required or spill >= 55 gal.

Detector: 2-Detector did not alert occupants

Person/Owner Involved

Business Name	Name	Phone Number	Type
Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center	Ed Brown	(509) 520-6114	5101012-Employee

Total Civilian Injuries: 0

Total Civilian Deaths: 0

APPARATUS DETAILS

Apparatus

Incident Date: 09/14/2023

Incident Number: 2023-00005364

Exposure: 0

City of Walla Walla Fire Department
 Station 1 - 200 S 12th AVE, Walla Walla, WA 99362
 Station 2 - 170 N Wilbur AVE, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Incident Date: 09/14/2023

Incident Type: 411-Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill

Incident Number: 2023-00005364

Exposure: 0

Number of People	ID	Apparatus Type	Use	Apparatus Sent	Dispatch Time	Enroute Time	Arrival Time	Clear/In-service Time
1	BC39 1	91-Mobile command post	1-Suppression	N-No	15:32:10	15:32:10	15:32:10	22:12:05
1	CH39 1	92-Chief officer car	0-Other	N-No	15:32:09	15:32:09	15:32:09	23:06:29
1	CH39 2	92-Chief officer car	1-Suppression	N-No	17:17:26	17:17:26	17:17:26	23:06:29
1	CH39 3	92-Chief officer car	0-Other	N-No	15:32:09	15:32:09	15:32:09	23:06:29
3	E391 2	11-Engine	1-Suppression	N-No	15:32:09	15:32:09	15:32:09	21:32:43

NARRATIVE

Narrative: DISPATCH:

Received a call at Fire Station one at 1400 hours from the Marcus Whitman staff who advised they would like WWFD to respond non-emergent for the smell of gasoline in the lobby and basement areas. No smoke or fire or other issues noted.

SIZEUP:

BC-391 took the call and responded. On arrival, found hotel facility under normal operations with guests and staff in waiting area.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Deployed 4-gas and 6-gas atmospheric monitors at entrance and picked up some trace VOC readings at 0.5 and 0.8. LEL was 0 and CO was 0. Recon of the first floor main level was consistent through-out. Proceeded to the basement level below grade and started taking readings of the presence of VOC's in the 30.0 range. Proceeded further into basement .

RESULTS:

The smell of gasoline odor became more apparent and was confirmed with increased VOC readings and an LEL of 9% at what I considered the source. There appeared to be two (2) sources of of the highest concentrations of readings both in a vault area approx. 8'x8' by 10' feet deep where readings were VOC of 1147PPM and LEL of 9%.

Chief Knowles and Chief Hector also had been in the area of concern with WW city official and staff of the Marcus Whitman.

Decision was made in the interest of hotel guest, hotel staff, and responders safety to evacuate the hotel properties and recon surrounding businesses for potential readings of VOC's or LEL.

With collaboration of the WWPd staff and WWFD members, the Hotel was successfully evacuated with primary and secondary searches. Moreover, personal items were removed by WWFD and WWPd personnel and given back to the guests as needed.

Incident Date: 09/14/2023

Incident Number: 2023-00005364

Exposure: 0

City of Walla Walla Fire Department
Station 1 - 200 S 12th AVE, Walla Walla, WA 99362
Station 2 - 170 N Wilbur AVE, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Incident Date: 09/14/2023

Incident Type: 411-Gasoline or other flammable
liquid spill

Incident Number: 2023-00005364

Exposure: 0

Washington State Dept. of Ecology was contacted and advised of situation and current readings. I spoke with Seth Benge, who advised the State was sending two additional specialists to be on site. Additionally, a contracted crew Clean Harbors, was also in route to assist in mitigating the source of gasoline and ventilation to render the building and immediate area safe of VOC's and LEL levels.

At approx. 1600 hours E3912 and BC 391 deployed to the basement area in full turnouts and SCBA to the potential basement source to initiate ventilation and shut off potential ignition sources.

Readings at the time just prior to starting more aggressive ventilation were as follows: @ 1608 hours in the dirt area of the basement approx. 20' from the concrete sump vault, VOC readings were 1934.9ppm, LEL of 16%. At 1610 hours readings at the top of the sump vault, VOC's 860.9ppm, LEL 60%. An additional reading was taken approx. one arms length inside the vault with an LEL of 93%. Direction was given for immediate withdrawal from the basement once the ventilation fans were set with all sources of ignition isolated and shut off. The crew of three exited the basement and structure.

Chief 391 assumed Incident Command
Chief 392 assumed operations
BC 391 was assigned team leader of any entry operations with full PPE on SCBA.

Tac channel assigned was W-tach.
Unified command post set up with assistance of WWPD.
Public works and streets notified to secure area affected.

It is also noted that readings were taken on all levels of hotel and nothing was found with exception of the main level and basement referenced in this report.

It is of note that the smell of gasoline started around 09/04/23, and WWFD personnel had responded approx. 1 week prior with Cascade Natural Gas and were unsuccessful in finding a source.

@ 1705 hours request was made to shut down the Chevron station across the street to the East. It was also noted that business had had a leak test done that morning. The pumps and system was shut down and a dip test had been started.

At 1754 hours Doyle Electric was on scene and proceeded to the basement electrical vault to assist in securing the electrical supply area to the building.

At 1915 E3912 crew and Contractor crew made entry into the basement to support additional ventilation with 2 additional fans. Readings were 0% LEL and 0 VOC's at basement door. At entrance in room/area of origin at 1920 hours, Benzene levels were 32 ppm, VOC's 36ppm, 0% LEL. Below the level of the vault Benzene level was 38.00 ppm, LEL 36%, and VOC's 1000ppm

At 2044 hours entry was made again after ventilation increase with Dept. of Ecology, E3912 to area of origin, readings were 0% LEL and 150ppm of VOC's.

After a team meeting of all involved agencies the decision was made to provide security of the Marcus Whitman building and affected area with streets providing barricades. Ventilation would continue through-out the night and into the next day until a source could be found and secured.

The clean up contractor was going to remain on scene with continuous monitoring provided through-

Incident Date: 09/14/2023

Incident Number: 2023-00005364

Exposure: 0

City of Walla Walla Fire Department
Station 1 - 200 S 12th AVE, Walla Walla, WA 99362
Station 2 - 170 N Wilbur AVE, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Incident Date: 09/14/2023

Incident Type: 411-Gasoline or other flammable
liquid spill

Incident Number: 2023-00005364

Exposure: 0

out the structure with air monitors from Washington State Dept. of Ecology.

At no time would entry be made into the Hot Zone with out monitoring and full SCBA protection by any personnel.

As of the time of this report mechanical processes were still in the active and ongoing status. This scene is still active and under investigation. Ongoing monitoring also is active.

Officer In Charge: 52 Knowles, John Fire Chief 09/15/2023

Member Making Report: 301 Swanson, Erik Captain/Firefighter/Paramedic 09/15/2023

Incident Date: 09/14/2023

Incident Number: 2023-00005364

Exposure: 0