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Media Release

Big Rig Rollover on Rural Section of Interstate 80 Injures Truck Driver

On Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at approximately 4:25 am, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a rollover crash on Interstate 80 near mile marker 68 in Churchill County involving a commercial motor vehicle. The crash happened on the rural stretch of the westbound freeway approximately 20 miles east of Fernley.

The preliminary crash investigation details indicate a red 2009 Volvo diesel tractor, towing a 2011 Utility 53-foot enclosed semi-trailer, was traveling westbound on the freeway where the posted speed limit is 75 miles per hour. The driver, 56-year-old Alexander Gugel of Henderson, allowed his vehicle to leave the left roadway edge and drift into the center dirt median. As he attempted to input steering to the right in an effort to re-negotiate the roadway surface, the truck and trailer overturned onto its left side.

Mr Gugel was partially trapped under his vehicle as a portion of the truck's cab was on top of one of his legs. He had to be extricated by fire department personnel from Lyon County once the heavy duty tow truck arrived to raise the vehicle off of him. He was flown to Renown Regional Medical Center by Care Flight and his injuries did not appear to be life-threatening. An updated medical condition was not available this afternoon.

The accident caused both number one, or left, travel lanes in each direction of the highway to be closed for several hours while emergency responders staged equipment to assist Mr Gugel. The trailer was carrying pints and quarts of automotive power steering fluid packaged in cardboard boxes and palletized. Clean-up crews spent most of the morning removing the displaced product as well as up-righting and recovering the big rig from the center median.



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