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Introduction to WIPP Vehicle Fire Accident Investigation Report

As a result of an incident on February 5, 2014, when a haul truck's diesel engine caught fire in the underground portion of Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) established an Accident Investigation Board (AIB) to assess the WIPP safety systems programs and processes at the federal and contractor level. This investigation included analysis of training and qualifications and emergency management response to the incident.

DOE AIB uses a rigorous process to investigate events that had or potentially could have had a negative impact to the employees, public or the environment. The DOE Carlsbad Field Office and its contractor, Nuclear Waste Partnership, made every aspect of WIPP operations available to the investigation team.

The fire was a serious event that posed a threat to workers deep underground. In this case, the fire resulted in minor smoke inhalation to six workers, but it did not impact the public or the environment. There is no indication the fire was related to the February 14, 2014, radiological release.

The AIB report details a significant number of Judgments of Needs (JON) that will form the basis for corrective actions designed to prevent the recurrence of such an event.

Also included in the report is a Summary of Positive Observations, which included prompt employee actions that prevented injuries.

DOE Headquarters, the Carlsbad Field Office and Nuclear Waste Partnership are working together to develop and implement corrective actions.

Click [here](#) to view the report. Click [here](#) to view a PowerPoint Summary.