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SPECIAL NEWS

UNION PACIFIC FUEL SPILL

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Incident Command Post

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UNION PACIFIC SPILL MOVES INTO CLEANUP: FUEL FLOWS CONTAINED

LAKE VAN NORDEN—A leak in the transfer between a refueling tank car and storage tank along the Union Pacific railline resulted in an approximate 17,500 gallon red diesel fuel spill on February 26, 1997.

Efforts by more than 20 crew from Department of Fish and Game, Union Pacific Railroad, and Erikson Cleanup Company will continue flow containment efforts. Sampling and monitoring programs for the Lake Van Norden area continue, with results indicating that no product has entered Lake Van Norden. One tributary appears to have been affected, but crews have constructed containment in that area.

Soil contamination testing protocols will be put in place to determine the extent of contamination in the meadow that leads into Lake Van Norden. Crews need to remove snow from drainage to gain access to the area affected by the spill.

Access to the area is limited by rail traffic and steep terrain. Safety concerns include frost bite and hypothermia.

The new location of the Incident Command Post will be the double-wide trailer at Truckee Forest Hospital, east of Highway 89 and Donner Pass Road, off of Levone.

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