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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge cleans up from diesel spill

August 31, 2016 – Traffic at the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge was slowed Tuesday evening after a diesel fuel spill.

Bridge traffic was stopped in both directions briefly at approximately 6:45 p.m. after a northbound semi struck a concrete barrier wall in the toll plaza causing a fuel tank rupture.

An estimated 80 gallons of diesel fuel spilled in the toll lanes, which were closed. A southbound lane reopened quickly, but northbound lanes remained closed until emergency personnel could remove some of the fuel.

"We want to thank the public for their patience while we worked to contain the fuel before reopening lanes," said Peter Petainen, general manager at the International Bridge Administration (IBA). "Public safety was our number one priority."

By approximately 8 p.m., one northbound lane reopened, allowing one lane of traffic in each direction at the bridge. After cleanup, at approximately 9:05 p.m., all lanes were reopened.

The Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Fire Department and City Police, along with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and IBA staff responded to the incident.

Petainen credited the quick response by all involved with keeping the effects of the spill minimized.

"In conjunction with the first responders, the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, assisted with a street sweeper, and Merle's Towing with fuel containment materials," Petainen said. "It's to the credit of everyone involved that we were able to get this resolved quickly."

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

For more information on the International Bridge, please visit www.saultbridge.com or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/saultbridge.

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**Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge:
Bridging Our Past, Connecting Our Future**



CAPTION: Emergency and other personnel work to clean up a diesel fuel spill at the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge toll plaza Tuesday evening. (International Bridge photo)