



## 90,000 gallons of diesel fuel spills in west Lincoln

By the Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Thursday, September 1, 2011 8:00 pm

Health officials say a diesel spill estimated at 90,000 gallons late Wednesday was contained within the Hobson rail yard in west Lincoln and will not affect any waterways.

"It's one of the largest (spills) that we can remember," said Nancy Clark, an environmental quality supervisor with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

An expansion joint failed on a fuel line at the rail yard's pump house on West O Street at about 11 p.m. Wednesday, causing the leak, said Andy Williams, a spokesman for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, which owns the yard.

"Once it was detected, the fuel pumps were shut off and the leak stopped," Williams said.

Crews have estimated about 40,000 gallons of fuel were caught by a containment system and another 50,000 gallons leaked into a retention pond on the site.

Vacuum trucks are able to remove the fuel from the containment system, but cleanup of the pond is expected to take several days.

Clark said soil in the area already was saturated from rains, so it didn't absorb much of the leaked fuel. However, she said, some of the soil will need to be removed.

"It's not likely to be a large quantity."