

LOCAL

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

CN cleaning up after train derailment near Carberry

By: **Graeme Bruce**

Posted: **3:00 AM** March 13 2015

Crews pressed ahead Thursday with operations to clean up 30,000 litres of bitumen spilled from a rail tanker after 13 cars derailed on Canadian National Railway's main line in western Manitoba. The cars on the eastbound train left the rails after 7 p.m. Wednesday just north of Carberry, about 50 kilometres northeast of Brandon.

No injuries were reported and CN said the spill was contained after crews were dispatched to the scene under the company's emergency response plan. No waterways have been impacted. The cars were carrying refinery cracking stock, a non-regulated type of bitumen, a petroleum product.

CN crews had reopened the main track to traffic by 5 a.m., with repair work on an adjacent siding proceeding through the day. The cause of the derailment is under investigation.

Environment officers from Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will monitor cleanup operations, the provincial government said. An emergency action notice was issued to CN to ensure the material is disposed of appropriately.

Robert Adriaansen, reeve of the RM of North Cypress-Langford said he was "quite impressed" by the reaction time of CN crews. The surrounding area, he said, includes some farmland, but "there is no concern to them at this time."

Leslie Olmstead, a cattle and grain farmer, said he was working in his yard when the accident occurred. "All I heard was the brakes coming on," he said. "They did come on fairly hard, and I did wonder, but I didn't know it had happened."

He was unconcerned about his farmland, but said, "It'll be a bit of a mess" as the cleanup progresses. "I could smell the oil," he said. Trains carrying oil products go through that area about once a week, he said.

CN was involved in a fiery derailment on Saturday just outside Gogama in northern Ontario. In that incident, the track and a bridge were destroyed, and a trace of oil product was found in the mouth of the local river system.

There have been three recent CN Rail derailments in northern Ontario, including two along a 40-kilometre stretch about an hour south of Timmins.

On Wednesday, the federal government proposed tough new standards for rail tank cars used to transport crude oil. The proposal would require cars to have outer "jackets," a layer of thermal protection, and thicker steel walls.