Gasoline Tanker Truck Stops Traffic on Archer Road

At 5:20 p.m. on Monday a Gasoline Tanker Truck was overturned on Archer Road carrying 7,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel. The fuel then spilled over to the McDonald's on the corner of Archer S.W. 40th Blvd.

According to Zoe Roberts, Florida Highway Patrol officer, the driver, Clint Smithers, 37-years-old, from Miami, Fla. was turning onto Interstate 75, northbound on-ramp when a tire went into a pothole and the tanker turned onto its side.

Smithers was uninjured and no other vehicles were involved. However, this incident caused the west bound traffic on Archer Road come to a complete stop due to the gasoline being poured out onto the road.

Gainesville Fire Rescue Hazardous Response Team was called, including other work crew to upright the trailer using industrial cranes, air bags, and tow trucks.

According to Bill Stubbe, Gainesville Hazardous Technician, they determined that the gas posed a safety threat due to the vapor being able to cause an explosion from a single spark. HazMat evacuated the employees and customers from McDonald at about 6:20 p.m. because the fumes can explode.

Florida Highway Patrol officers re-routed traffic around the accident and spill hazard. Florida Highway Patrol officers will open west bound on Archer Road in a few hours.

There are no charges on Smithers but the accident is being investigated.