

Trucks engulfed by large fire on Eyre Highway amid surge in SA-WA road freight

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Trucks on fire at the Border Village Roadhouse on the SA-WA border. (Gary Singh)

Firefighters remained at the scene of a large truck fire that engulfed several vehicles metres from the SA-WA border on the Nullarbor Plain long into Monday afternoon.

The fire was reported about midday on the Eyre Highway, near the Border Village Roadhouse on the South Australian side.

WA's Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) said volunteers from Eucla responded at 1pm and had contained the fire by 1:40pm.

It said three trucks were involved in the blaze — which broke out in extreme heat — and that the cause was linked to wheel brakes or bearings.

Key points:

- The fire broke out about midday on the Eyre Highway
- The road is currently acting as the main freight route between WA and SA after the rail line was cut by floods
- There were no reported injuries

One of the trucks was towing another, while another was pulling two trailers.

There have been no reported injuries, and DFES said the trucks were carrying goods and equipment.

South Australian Road Transport Association executive officer Steve Shearer said the drivers were away from their trucks getting COVID-19 tests to get into Western Australia.

He said WA Police made trucks wait for hours to get across the border, causing the build-up of trucks in close proximity.

"We can't blame for the fire starting, but we can point the finger at them for being far worse than it needed to be," he said.

Freight traffic has increased in recent days along the Eyre Highway, which is currently acting as the sole [land cargo route between Adelaide and Perth after heavy rain damaged the rail link](#).

SA Police said the trucks had been completely destroyed by the fire.

The highway was later open, but strong winds earlier caused thick smoke to drift across the area.

Last month, a [truck carrying hazardous materials was completely gutted by fire on the Eyre Highway](#).