

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Special Operations**

**Special Operations, SOG 4.16**  

---

**RAILROAD EMERGENCIES**

I. Procedure

1) Upon Arrival

- A. Have the fire dispatcher notify the railroad dispatcher of the exact location of the incident and request a railroad representative to respond.
- B. CSX Railway Police direct contact to IC for Railroad emergencies twenty-four (24) hours at 1-800-232-0144. They must be notified immediately to stop oncoming trains.
- C. Request assistance as may be necessary to handle the emergency.
- D. Request City Police, State Patrol, or Sheriff assistance, if necessary.
- E. Coordinate with the train conductor, engineer, and/or any available railroad personnel at the scene.
- F. If cars other than the engine are involved, obtain a copy of the shipping papers (engineer should have them with him/her).
- G. Action taken prior to determining the product involved may be totally wrong and may severely compound the problem. Request Fire Dispatcher to dispatch Honda Foam trailer, EMA Hazmat Trailer and/or other “specialized” resources as indicated.

2) Safety

- A. Responding personnel shall wear protective clothing in accordance with the emergency situation.
- B. Personnel should be aware that diesel electric train engines carry from 100 to 250 gallons of P.C.B. in their electric generators.
- C. Some situations involving cargo fires (when the cargo is of a hazardous nature) may dictate evacuation of the immediate and/or surrounding area.
- D. For extra safety and if manpower is available have lighted fuses placed on the track (in the center, between the rails) one-half (1/2) mile in each direction of the incident. **A Firefighter or Law enforcement officer needs to stand-by as a flagman with the fuses until you are notified that on-coming trains have been stopped or diverted.**

3) Engine Fires

- A. Coordinate with the conductor and engineer, if possible.
- B. Use CO2 on electrical fires.

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Special Operations**

- C. Diesel engines utilize considerable quantities of diesel fuel onboard. Handle these fires as you would a combustible liquid fire.
- D. Full protective clothing and SCBA's shall be worn {See SOG 1.04 Full Protective Clothing}.

4) Tank Car Fires and Leaks

- A. Identify the product.
- B. Be guided by the nature of the product. If Hazardous Materials are involved, seek technical assistance from Hazardous Materials information sources. {See Hazardous Materials SOG's} **Use Extreme Caution.**
- C. Wear Full Protective clothing and SCBA's. If Hazardous Materials are involved, wear appropriate protective clothing per Hazardous Material Guidebook.
- D. When Hazardous Materials are involved, proceed according to the nature of the hazard. **A Defensive Mode may be called for rather than an Offensive Mode.**
- E. Evacuation may be necessary.

5) Box Car Fires

- A. Identify the product; if a Hazardous Material is involved, proceed according to the nature of the product involved {See Hazardous Materials SOG's}.
- B. When normal materials are involved, protect exposures, disconnect the car and separate it from the rest of the train, if possible.
- C. Cool the exterior of the car and try to determine where the hottest area of the car might be.
- D. Cool the underside of the car.
- E. Normally an indirect attack is best. This is accomplished by the following:
  - 1. Determine, if possible, the hottest area of the car.
  - 2. Ladder the car and punch a small hole in the roof of the car over the hottest area.
  - 3. Use a fog or cellar nozzle through the hole to affect an indirect attack and flood car. Use Foam if available.
- F. Full Protective Clothing and SCBA's shall be worn.