

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Special Operations

Special Operations, SOG 4.16

RAILROAD EMERGENCIES

1. Procedure

Upon Arrival

- ✓ Have the fire dispatcher notify the railroad dispatcher of the exact location of the incident and request a railroad representative to respond.
- ✓ CSX Railway must be notified immediately to stop oncoming trains.
- ✓ Request law enforcement and other assistance as may be necessary to handle the emergency.
- ✓ Coordinate with the train conductor, engineer, and/or any available railroad personnel at the scene.
- ✓ If cars other than the engine are involved, obtain a copy of the shipping papers (engineer should have them with him/her).
- ✓ 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

- ✓ Responding personnel shall wear protective clothing in accordance with the emergency situation.
- ✓ Personnel should be aware that diesel electric train engines carry from 100 to 250 gallons of P.C.B. in their electric generators.
- ✓ Some situations involving cargo fires (when the cargo is of a hazardous nature) may dictate evacuation of the immediate and/or surrounding area.
- ✓ 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

- ✓ Coordinate with the conductor and engineer, if possible.
- ✓ Use CO2 on electrical fires.
- ✓ Diesel engines utilize considerable quantities of diesel fuel onboard. Handle these fires as you would a combustible liquid fire.
- ✓ Full protective clothing and SCBA’s shall be worn {See SOG 3.04 Full Protective Clothing}.

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Special Operations

4. Tank Car Fires and Leaks

- ✓ Identify the product.
- ✓ 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.**
- ✓ Wear Full Protective clothing and SCBA's. If Hazardous Materials are involved, wear appropriate protective clothing per Hazardous Material Guidebook.
- ✓ 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.**
- ✓ Evacuation may be necessary.

5. Box Car Fires

- ✓ Identify the product. If a Hazardous Material is involved, proceed according to the nature of the product involved {See Hazardous Materials SOG's}.
- ✓ Cool the exterior of the car and try to determine where the hottest area of the car might be.
- ✓ Cool the underside of the car.
- ✓ Normally an indirect attack is best. This is accomplished by the following:
 - Determine, if possible, the hottest area of the car.
 - Ladder the car and punch a small hole in the roof of the car over the hottest area.
 - Use a fog or cellar nozzle through the hole to affect an indirect attack and flood car. Use Foam if available.
- ✓ Full Protective Clothing and SCBA's shall be worn.