

**MITCHELL FIRE DEPARTMENT/MITCHELL REGIONAL AMBULANCE  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Part 700: Incident Operations  
Subject: Train Derailment  
Page: 1 of 3 Section: 714  
Effective Date: 11-1-2016 Revised Date:

714.01 Purpose: This plan provides a basic philosophy and strategic framework for train derailments in the Mitchell Fire Department (MFD) jurisdiction. This plan provides for response to train derailments with or without hazardous materials involved.

714.02 Goal: The goal of this plan is to provide a safe and expedient response to train derailments in the MFD jurisdiction, thereby reducing damage to property and injury to civilians and fire personnel through mitigation, containment, and isolation or evacuation as needed. Incident priorities are life safety, incident stabilization, critical systems, environmental protection, and property.

714.03 Procedure:

A) Upon first alarm of a train derailment in the MFD response area, personnel will automatically assume hazardous materials are involved. Personnel will respond with full bunker gear and have SCBA available for use as needed.

- 1) Dispatch will attempt to obtain and relay the following information:
  - a) Wind direction and speed
  - b) Presence or absence of fire
  - c) Presence or absence of vapor cloud
  - c) Presence or absence of hazardous materials
  - e) Number of injured or deceased
  - f) Number of cars or tanks derailed

B) On arrival, stage upwind of the scene at least a quarter mile; up to one-half mile if vapor cloud or fire is involved. Using binoculars determine or confirm the following before proceeding further:

- 1) Presence or absence of fire
- 2) Presence or absence of vapor cloud
- 3) Placard or signage on rail cars and tanks that can be used to identify contents to be researched in the Emergency Response Guide (ERG)
- 4) Attempt to determine the owner of the rail line, not the cars or engines
- 5) Rail car or tank ID number to pass along to the rail line in order to get manifest
- 6) Number of rail cars or tanks derailed and their positional attitude
- 7) Railroad "mile marker" post number
- 8) Presence of wounded, walking wounded, and deceased

C) The following actions should be taken immediately after scene size up:

- 1) Follow recommendations as outlined in the ERG for hazardous materials incidents
- 2) Attempt to contact the train personnel for manifest and other important information
- 3) Determine the need for mutual aid from area departments, ambulance services, Search and Rescue, Regional HAZMAT Team
- 4) Identify the HOT ZONE, WARM ZONE, and COLD ZONE of operations
- 5) Determine the need to isolate and/or evacuate areas downwind from the incident
- 6) Utilize city, county and state law enforcement to set up perimeters and assist with isolation and evacuation activities
- 7) Set up decontamination and triage area for immediate walking wounded
- 8) Set up decontamination area for incident personnel exiting the HOT ZONE
- 9) Dispatch to advise Davison County Emergency Management to contact the State Duty Officer
- 10) The contact information for various agencies that may or should be involved is listed on the following page

D) Determine specific tactics and the need for additional equipment to mitigate loss of life, injury, or damage to property and the environment. Remember that the mission of MFD is to mitigate the incident. Specialty resources will be called in for additional mitigation and cleanup activities.

E) Consider the following list of equipment and tactics most commonly applied to hazardous material incidents at the operation level:

- 1) Heavy, earth moving equipment for the purpose of:
  - a) Damming, diking, or diverting hazardous spills from entering areas dangerous to humans or the environment.
  - b) Moving large vehicles that may be impeding rescue and recovery efforts
  
- 2) Surface water booms for the purpose of:
  - a) Blocking hazardous liquid chemicals from flowing further downstream
  - b) Containment of hazardous liquid chemicals in an area on surface waters
  
- 3) Firefighting foam for the purpose of:
  - a) Extinguishing fire
  - b) Covering surface area of hazardous chemicals for vapor suppression  
(Use extreme caution when extinguishing chemical fires. If a fire of hazardous material, such as crude oil or ethanol, is extinguished **without** blanketing the surface with a heavy layer of foam, the once burning vapors may ignite, creating a greater hazard.)
  
- 4) Water for the purpose of:
  - a) Extinguishment of fires not involving hazardous chemicals but related to the incident
  - b) Dilution of water miscible hazardous materials to reduce threat
  - c) Vapor suppression implementation via water fog patterns
  
- 5) Thermal Imager for purpose of:
  - a) Identifying the presence of flames involving some hazardous chemical fires

**Contact numbers that may or should be involved:**

-Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF)	24/7/365	800-832-5452
-Dakota Southern		605-682-8346
-Davison County Emergency Management		605-995-8640
-South Dakota Duty Officer	24/7/365	605-773-3231
-Department of Energy and Natural Resources (SD Duty Off. After hours)	Bus. Hours	605-773-3296
-CHEMTREK	24/7/365	800-424-9300
-Sioux Falls HAZMAT Team (BNSF Foam Trailer Avail)	24/7/365	605-367-7171
-Avera Queen of Peace ER	24/7/365	605-995-2276
-City of Mitchell Airport	24/7/365	605-996-1228
-National Weather Service	24/7/365	605-330-4247