



Information Bulletin

UPDATE: AMENDED STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR RAIL INCIDENTS INVOLVING CRUDE OIL

As part of New York State's ongoing commitment to address the hazards posed by the high volume transportation of crude oil across the State, the Office of Fire Prevention and Control has updated the strategic and tactical guidance for fire department operations during the initial phases of a rail incident involving crude oil. Additional air monitoring information has been added to reflect both the flammability and toxicity risks posed by crude oil. The updated guidance document is available at the link below:

www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/documents/crude-oil-guidance.pdf

As any significant derailment involving a crude oil spill or fire will likely require a large scale and multi-agency response from all levels of government and the involved railroad, the planning, preparedness and response efforts will obviously exceed what is contained here. This document is intended to build upon existing training and readily available resources such as the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) to assist fire department personnel with making strategic decisions about offensive and defensive operating modes and provide initial tactical guidance appropriate for any crude by rail incident.

Notification and contact information is provided for State and Federal agencies, along with the emergency contact numbers for the Class I railroads which operate in New York State.

The guidance provides estimated application rates for Class B foam and cooling water, along with the estimated total quantities needed of each, for scenarios including:

- a single rail car involved in fire, with exposure to two additional cars; and
- three rail cars involved in fire, with exposure to two additional cars.

These scenarios serve to illustrate the level of resources that may be required to provide for effective fire control and vapor suppression operations and can support both pre-incident planning and response efforts.

OFPC has updated its existing training programs to specifically address the hazards posed by crude oil and has developed a training course focusing specifically on the Class B foam trailer operations.

Please contact OFPC's Special Operations Branch at 518-474-6746 with any questions or requests for additional information.