

# Railroad Accident

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A minor rail accident on or near the U-M campus could involve blocked tracks, vehicle traffic disruption, personal injuries or death, and concerns about hazardous cargos. A major rail disaster could include massive wreckage, deaths and the uncontrolled release of hazardous cargo.

## **Updated**

August 8, 2011

## **Source**

Federal Railroad Administration

National Transportation Safety Board

## **More Information**

<http://www.fra.dot.gov/index.shtml>

<http://ntsb.gov/>

## **Prevention / Mitigation / Preparedness - Railroad Accident**

If building evacuation is required, the following needs to be considered:

Designate areas of refuge / evacuation areas. Post maps for these areas of refuge/shelter-in-place/evacuation routes in well-marked locations throughout the building to aid occupant use.

Determine how the information on the incident will be obtained and then delivered to building occupants.

Have a building incident response team / floor marshal system in effect and practice evacuation procedures

Review the protective action section of this EOP regarding persons with disabilities. Identify staff that will assist and discuss efforts needed to get disabled occupants into a safe shelter.

Drivers of University vehicles should use caution when approaching a railroad crossing and approach each one assuming a train is coming, by stopping their vehicle no closer than 15 feet from the closest rail. Drivers should not rely on signals and gates to indicate that a train is on its way. Instead, look carefully in all directions to make sure a train is not coming.

## **Response - Railroad Accident**

Contact 911 for immediate emergency response and be prepared to provide the following information:

- Where is the incident located
- What markings (name of company, any chemical information stored inside, etc) are on the rail cars
- Are there any injuries and how many people are injured
- Is there a chemical release (spilled or airborne) from the rail car
- Designate someone to meet with first responders and escort them to the affected area

## **Recovery - Railroad Accident**

Do not enter the affected area until advised by authorities it is clear to do so

Contact the University Risk Management office (734) 764-2200 so claims management and other insurance matters can be handled.