



**County of Onondaga
Department of Emergency Management**

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**Hazardous Materials Incident Response Preparedness
Onondaga County/City of Syracuse**

Ethanol and Crude Oil Rail Transportation Preparedness Enhancements

Emergency Management and Syracuse Fire have a firm understanding of the various Hazardous Materials that transverse our County on a daily basis and have prepared, trained and exercised for different eventualities for some time. This cooperative working relationship has been instrumental in the development and periodic updating of our Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan.

The mission of the HMRT is to prevent or reduce the impact of an incident on our citizens, community and critical infrastructure. The HMRT is aware of the high financial and social costs associated with a hazardous materials incident. As such, although the protection of life and property is the primary objective, the HMRT shall make every reasonable effort to reduce an incident's financial and social impact including, but not limited to; reducing the impact on transportation systems, public services, commerce and business.

Additionally, with regards to rail transportation, we have worked and trained with CSX representatives locally for many years, including utilizing their Safety Train approximately six years ago and again during a three day training program in June 2014.

Although there is a heightened awareness of rail transportation regarding Crude Oil and Ethanol due to recent significant events across our country we have a responsibility to continue to prepare and train for any eventuality that may occur in our community.

We have begun additional efforts to enhance our preparedness, training and exercising for potential derailments involving crude oil, as follows:

1. Enhanced GIS mapping of rail lines and potential Critical Infrastructure hazards that could be impacted by catastrophic events. This information will enhance our critical infrastructure preparedness as well as allow for increased tabletop planning and exercising.
2. Met with CSX Government Relations Officials to discuss specifics of rail transportation in our area. As a result of this meeting, CSX prepared a comprehensive Hazardous Materials Density Study for Onondaga County. Emergency Management is in possession of the proprietary and confidential information. It has been shared with key County/City Emergency Response Leadership personnel for planning and preparedness purposes; it is not for any further dissemination.
3. Increased focus meetings with our Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team Leadership. Our SCNYUA Regional Response team has met to discuss planning and response capabilities. Recently Emergency Management and our Regional Hazardous Materials Team personnel participated in a full scale exercise at the North Syracuse Post Office for their Bio-Detection System activation drill. This allowed us to bring our



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- hazardous materials resources and personnel to together to train and exercise our procedures and equipment.
4. CSX Safety Train and corresponding training courses were held for our area June 19, 20 & 21, 2014. Syracuse Fire, Emergency Management staff and Volunteer Deputy Coordinators and other Public Safety agencies attended the program. The program was also open to all Fire Department's that have rail lines. Approximately 110 Onondaga County Public Safety Responders attended one of the sessions.
 5. Through Department of Homeland Security Grant Programs, Onondaga County Emergency Management has secured the acquisition of a Foam Tender that will contain two-250 gallon foam totes containing Universal Gold AR-AFFF (Alcohol-Resistant Aqueous Film Forming Foam) on a trailer. We are also acquiring an additional 500 gallons of this foam that will be in 50 gallon drums. This foam is the best all-purpose firefighting and vapor suppression foam that we can purchase and can be used quite effectively for potential Crude Oil and Ethanol incidents.
 - a. This acquisition merely enhances the response capabilities and equipment already utilized by Emergency Management, Syracuse Fire and many of our Volunteer Fire Departments.
 - b. As part of a cooperative working relationship and agreement with the Village of Minoa and the Minoa Fire Department, the Foam Tender will housed at Minoa FD, Fire Station #2. This will provide us with quick access and response to incidents that may occur at the Minoa/East Syracuse rail yards.
 6. Onondaga County Emergency Management will be planning a Full Scale Exercise, for early 2015. The exercise will simulate a Crude Oil derailment that will include a response and mitigation component as well as activation of the Emergency Operations Center.
 7. US DOT Emergency Order Effective June 1, 2014: By this order, USDOT is requiring that each railroad carrier provide the State Emergency Response Commission, for each state in which it operates trains transporting 1,000,000 gallons or more of Bakken crude oil, notification regarding the expected movement of such trains through counties in the state. Onondaga County Emergency Management has received, from NYS Emergency Response Commission, our confidential and proprietary CSX report.

Our specific knowledge of the rail industry, CSX commodities transported and our preparedness efforts are confidential to Emergency Management and our Public Safety Agencies. This information is not to be disseminated outside our Public Safety Agency partners. The Hazardous Materials Density Study for Onondaga County has been provided solely for more effective emergency planning and preparedness purposes and may not be used for any other purpose. The information is proprietary to CSX Transportation and remains the property of CSX Transportation.