SITUATION REPORT # 4
NEW JERSEY STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
December 6, 2012, 1000 Hours

A. CURRENT SYNOPSIS:

The NJ ROIC and NJOEM are currently monitoring the Train Derailment in Paulsboro Borough, Gloucester County, New Jersey. NJ ROIC operational level is currently at a Level 2 (NJ ROIC Enhanced Operations) as of 0800 hours December 3, 2012, and NJOEM personnel are staffing the SEOC from 0800 to 1600 hours. NJOEM will provide situational awareness reports to the State, County, Local and allied agencies throughout this event. Updates will follow as needed.

B. INCIDENT:

Approximately 0715 hours, November 30, 2012, a Conrail freight train was derailed when a railroad bridge, spanning the Mantua Creek collapsed. Six (6) railcars were derailed and four (4) were partially submerged in the Mantua Creek. One (1) railcar, which contained vinyl chloride, was breached causing an air and water release of vinyl chloride. Paulsboro Borough declared a State of Emergency for the municipality and established a curfew as of 1900 hours. The incident occurred near the 200 block of East Jefferson Street. Initially, residents within one half mile were advised to shelter in place. On this same date at 1600 hours, an evacuation order was issued for residents in the area of Commerce Street, Railroad Avenue and Broad Street affecting approximately 45 residents.

Effective December 4, 2012, 1600 hours, a decision was made to expand the evacuation area to now include Broad Street to Spruce Street, Spruce Street to the railroad tracks, the railroad tracks to Delaware Street, Delaware Street to 7th Street, and 7th Street to the Mantua Creek. Due to the consistent elevated readings, the emergency declaration was amended to extend evacuations affecting approximately 100 homes and approximately 300/400 residents.

Gloucester County declared a Countywide Emergency Proclamation effective

December 4, 2012, 1400 hours in response to the Paulsboro Borough train derailment.

C. RESOURCES DEPLOYED/REQUESTED:

No additional resources are requested at this time.

D. ACTIVITIES:

Unified Command:

- Conducted a town hall meeting last night with approximately 400 attendees. Provided general public with information on incident status and future plans.
- Sonar camera system will be utilized to facilitate damage assessment.
- OSHA invited to assist Safety Officer in plan review (NOT compliance) activities.
- Plan to initiate Phase 2 (Site Preparation) Operations today.
- Requesting Temporary Flight Restriction (2,000 feet and 3 mile radius) over incident site from the FAA.
- Agencies directed to actively push incident information to Paulsboro Borough residents.

Response & Recovery Branch:

- Acetone wash was completed at 1800. 440 gallons of vinyl chloride-acetone solution removed during pump-off operations.
- Steam cleaning of breached tank car commenced at 1918 hours and completed at 0740 hours. When complete, tank car will be classified as “cleaned and purged.”
- USCGC CAPSTAN relieved USCGC CLEAT at 2015 hours.
- Phase 2 Incident Action Plan has been completed.

Environmental Monitoring Branch:

- Active air monitoring continues to be conducted on-scene and responders are equipped with respirators and SCBAs as directed by the Safety Officer.
- Plan developed to sample creek sediments and investigate if there are private wells in Paulsboro Borough land west of Mantua Creek.

Law Enforcement Branch:

- Continues to provide access control and site security.
- Prepared with appropriate resources to implement any evacuation activites.

Safety Zone Group:

- USCGC CAPSTAN continues to enforce the established Safety Zone.

General Information:

- School closures remain in effect through the entirety of the incident.

Agencies on Scene:

Federal Agencies:

- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

State/Allied Agencies:

- NJSP Emergency Response Bureau-South
- NJSP Hazardous Material Response Unit
- NJSP Incident Management Unit
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- United States Coast Guard
- Atlantic Strike Team

County Agencies:

- Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management
- Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office
- Gloucester County HazMat
- Paulsboro Police Department
- Paulsboro Fire Department

Private Sector:

- Conrail
- CSX Rail

E. WEATHER FORECAST:

- Today: Sunny, with a high near 44. North wind around 6 mph becoming calm in the morning.

- Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. Calm wind.

- Friday: A chance of rain, mainly after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 51. Calm wind becoming south 5 to 7 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.