Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section **Operations**	**Referral No.** **O-22**	**Subject:** **Railroad Emergencies**	**Date Issued** **3/08**	**Date Revised**

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safe railroad emergency operations.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel respond properly.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System.
  - Ensure the safety of all personnel.
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command at an emergency scene.
  - All personnel have the responsibility to wear the proper safety equipment and to operate in a safe manner.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- **Full PPE shall be worn at all incidents.**
  - **Include SCBA at any fire or odor investigation.**
- The main objective of railroad emergency operations is to safely handle any emergency situation involving train engines, any railroad cars, or railroad property.
- Personnel should be aware that diesel electric train engines carry from 100 to 250 gallons of P.C.B. in their electric generators; there are also large amounts of diesel fuel onboard.
- Some situations involving cargo fires (when the cargo is of hazardous nature) may dictate evacuation of the immediate and/or surrounding area.
- For extra safety and if manpower is available have lighted fuses placed on the track (in the center, between rails) one-half (1/2) mile in each direction of the incident.
- Notify railroad dispatcher to stop all trains approaching, until then have firefighter or law enforcement stand-by as a flagman to alert approaching trains.
- Have all vehicles approach from upwind if possible due to possibility of chemicals in burning railcars or engines.

ENGINE FIRES:

- Coordinate with the conductor and engineer, if possible, on best how to handle the situation.
- Use CO2 on electrical fires.
- Diesel engines utilize considerable quantities of diesel fuel onboard.
  - Handle these fires as you would a combustible liquid fire.
  - Notify the EMA due to large amounts of diesel fuel involved.
- Full protective clothing including SCBA shall be worn at all times.
- Obtain wind direction from dispatch and try to approach from upwind if possible.

TANK CAR FIRES AND LEAKS:

- Identify the product if possible.
- Be guided by the nature of the product.
- If Hazardous Materials are involved, seek technical assistance from Hazardous Materials information sources.
- Notify Hazmat team and set up safety zones per information found in Hazardous Materials book, and set up for evacuation. USE EXTREME CAUTION.
- Wear full protective clothing and SCBA'S at all times.
- If Hazardous Material is involved set up for defensive attack to protect possible exposures.
- Obtain wind direction from dispatch and approach from upwind if possible.

BOX CAR FIRES:

- Identify the product, if a Hazardous Material is involved, proceed according to the nature involved. Set up safety zones per information found in Hazardous Material book and notify the Hazmat team.
- When normal materials are involved, protect exposures, disconnect the car and separate it from the rest of the train if possible.
- Cool the exterior of the car and try to determine where the hottest part of the car is.
- If there is a door into car attempt to open once you have two charged lines and a water supply. If not attempt to poke a small hole in top of car above fire and use a fog nozzle to attack fire.
- Use foam if available.
- Full protective clothing including SCBA is required.
- If car is a coke car refer to "Coke Car Fires" Guideline