

TRANSPORTATION: TRAIN DERAILMENT**GENERAL SITUATION**

A major train derailment can result in considerable loss of life and property. Potential hazards could be overturned rail cars, direct impact into an industrial building or entering into normal street traffic. Each of these scenarios encompass many threats, such as a hazardous materials incident, fire, severe damage to either adjacent buildings or vehicles and loss of life of those in either adjacent buildings or vehicles and pedestrians.

SPECIFIC SITUATION

There is an increasing potential for a railroad disaster and hazardous materials or explosions and fires through railroad derailment. The movement of large quantities of hazardous commodities or military ordinance poses a continual threat for a transportation incident that could involve hundreds of people. In February 2015 a Metrolink passenger train collided with a truck at the Rice Avenue grade crossing in Oxnard. The train derailed with three cars falling onto their sides. The train engineer died and 29 passengers were injured.

Amtrak/Metrolink

Passenger service, provided by Amtrak and Metrolink, is presently scheduled eight times a day in each direction, and may be increased. Oxnard is the most heavily used station on the line between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. Amtrak offers access to lines terminating in Los Angeles as well as to the Bay Area and northwest via the Union Pacific Coast Line. Oxnard is the western terminus of the Ventura County Metrolink commuter line into Los Angeles Union Station.

Union Pacific Railroad

The City of Oxnard is served by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Coast Main Line. The railroad connects the City of Oxnard to all major west coast destinations and markets. The freight terminal facilities provide for the delivery of products, goods, and raw materials out of Oxnard. Present freight service levels (approximately eight through freight trains plus local service) are expected to continue. Although the UPRR provides service to local freight customers, it also divides the community and exposes residents to 7.4 miles of rail line.

Ventura County Railroad

The Ventura County Railway (VCRR) line, operated by the Ventura County Railroad Company (Rail America), transfers freight from the Port of Hueneme and connects with the UPRR Coast Main Line in downtown Oxnard. Because of the type of equipment and operating standards, this railroad has far less impact on the community than the main line Union Pacific Railroad. The VCRR however complicate traffic movement along Wooley Road, especially at the “Five Points” intersection. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) (part of the Department of Transportation) is responsible for the investigation of all railroad accidents and should be notified immediately.