



South Carolina  
State Emergency Operations Center  
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## AIKEN COUNTY/GRANITEVILLE TRAIN DERAILMENT

**Situation Report #1**  
**January 6, 2005; 17:00**

**TO:** Governor's Office, Chief of Staff  
SC State Agencies SERT members  
SC Counties  
OTAG  
FEMA, Region IV, Atlanta  
FEMA, Region IV, Thomasville  
GEMA  
NCDEM

**FROM:** State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

### **SITUATION:**

At 03:45 SCEMD was notified of a train derailment in Graniteville (in Aiken County) involving hazardous materials. A Norfolk Southern Railway train traveling at 45 mph missed a switch and ran into a parked locomotive. Hazardous materials being carried by the train include chlorine, sodium hydroxide, and creosol. Current information indicates that chlorine is the only substance known to be leaking. It is unknown at this time whether the sodium hydroxide or creosol is leaking. The Incident Commander, a DHEC representative, and a railroad representative flew a helicopter flight over the incident scene to determine the extent of hazardous materials involvement and leakage. Mandatory evacuation was ordered for residents in a one-mile radius around the crash site. A curfew for Graniteville is in effect from 18:00 to 07:00.

The following agencies are involved in response to this event: Aiken County, Barnwell County, Edgefield County, Columbia County GA, Augusta GA, Richmond County GA, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Transportation Safety Board, South Carolina Emergency Management Division, State Law Enforcement Division, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control, South Carolina Highway Patrol, South Carolina Department of Transportation, Chief Information Officer, Norfolk Southern Railroad, Savannah River Site, and Fort Gordon.

### **WEATHER:**

Current temperature at Graniteville is 73 degrees with 57% humidity. Winds are out of the southwest at 17 mph with gusts to 25 mph.

### **ESTIMATE OF CASUALTIES:**

Two fatalities have been confirmed. Two injuries were reported as a result of the locomotive crash. Patients that may have been exposed to leaking chemicals have been decontaminated and sent to medical facilities for follow-up care. Patients have been sent to Aiken Regional Medical Center, University Hospital, Medical College of Georgia, Doctors Hospital, and St. Josephs Hospital in Augusta, GA, and Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, SC.

<b>CASUALTY INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Treated</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
Aiken Regional	Aiken, SC	53	20	1
Lexington Medical Center	West Columbia, SC	5	5	0
University Hospital	Augusta, GA	80	14	0
Medical College of Georgia	Augusta, GA	30	14	0
Doctors Hospital	Augusta, GA	30	0	0
St. Josephs Hospital	Augusta, GA	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1</b>

**STATUS OF DECLARATIONS:**

Governor Sanford issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency for Aiken County.

**STATUS OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS:**

The State EOC was activated at OCPON 1 at 08:00. In addition to EMD staff, representatives from ESFs 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, and 16 have been activated. SCEMD Director Ron Osborne is on scene at the incident command post. SCEMD dispatched a liaison to the Aiken County Emergency Operation Center. The Aiken County Emergency Operation Center was activated at 0530.

**ESF-5: INFORMATION AND PLANNING**

ESF-5 coordinated arrival of three FEMA personnel to serve as liaisons to the FEMA Region IV Regional Operations Center.

**ESF-6: MASS CARE**

Shelters are currently open at USC Aiken, First Baptist Church in Aiken, Midlands Valley High School, and South Aiken High School. No shelterees are currently housed. Salvation Army is ready to provide meals at shelters if required.

**ESF-8: HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES**

A refrigerated truck deployed from Mauldin to Aiken at 11:50. A coroner's trailer is staged in Columbia awaiting a request from Aiken coroner. Prepared to send nurses to shelters as needed. Continuing to verify status of hospitals.

**ESF-10: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Approximately 12 DHEC personnel, and the Hackney response vehicle responded from Columbia and the Aiken District office responded to the scene. DHEC response efforts have centered on determining contents of the damaged railcars and impact to surrounding public from the release. Train manifest arrived at approximately 10:15 from Norfolk Southern. Rail containers of interest consist of three chlorine and one sodium hydroxide cars. DHEC entry personnel suspect that one chlorine car had an instantaneous release on impact and two cars had a slow consistent release. The white substance on the ground is believed to be Kaoln from two uncovered rail containers and is not dangerous. DHEC personnel are currently working with the on-scene Incident Commander and the SEOC to assist with emergency actions.

**ESF-13: LAW ENFORCEMENT**

SLED and Highway Patrol are assisting local law enforcement with door-to-door sweep of impacted area. Two helicopters are deployed to the impacted area to support missions. Agents on the scene awaiting duty orders. FAA established a temporary flight restriction zone out to 5-mile radius and up to 3,000 feet from the derailment site per a request from SLED.

**ESF-16: EMERGENCY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

Traffic Control Points have been established at the following locations: US1 from Langley Crossing to Greg St, SC 191 from S-421 to Vacluse Rd, S-104 from S-69 to US1, S-69 from Chalk Bed Rd to Graniteville, S-33 from S-44 (Bettis Academy) to Graniteville, S-895 (Greg Hwy) from 118 Bypass to Graniteville. These roads are restricted to emergency vehicles only. SC Department of Public Safety has a Personal Protective Equipment trailer enroute to the incident to support personnel assigned to the mission.