



NEWS

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Bakken Response Full-Scale Exercise

King of Prussia, PA (June 7, 2016) – A full-scale exercise simulating the derailment of a train carrying Bakken crude oil is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 11th, at the Abrams rail yard along the Schuylkill River in King of Prussia.

Residents near the Schuylkill River, particularly in the King of Prussia section of Upper Merion Township and the Port Indian section of West Norriton Township, should be aware that an exercise is being conducted and not be alarmed by the activity they may notice.

About 150 first responders and a large number of fire and other response apparatus will take part in the exercise, aspects of which will include “smoke” generated by a machine and firefighters spraying training foam. Both the smoke and foam will be non-toxic. The training foam will be generated using a solution similar to dish detergent and the “smoke” will actually be a long lasting fog produced using a product commonly used in theatrical productions.

There will also be boats in the Schuylkill River as part of the exercise to simulate both oil containment and search and rescue activities. Those boats will be launched on the West Norriton side of the river from ramps along East Indian Lane.

Planned road closures: N. Henderson Road at Beidler Road and Beidler Road at Abrams Road in Upper Merion Township will be closed to traffic for the duration of the exercise.

Preparations will begin at 7:00am with the exercise set to start at 8:00am and go on until 12:00pm. Organizers and participants should be clear of the area by 1:00pm.

The exercise is being conducted by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Fire Task Force. In addition to Upper Merion Township fire, police, and emergency management, participants will include fire, HAZMAT, and Urban Search and Rescue units from throughout the five-county region, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Private industry participants are Norfolk Southern, Lewis Environmental, and HEPACO.

The exercise is the latest in a series of planning and training sessions that Montgomery County and its partner agencies have engaged in related to a potential incident involving Bakken Crude oil dating back to 2013.

“This has been an ongoing concern of ours for years and we are pleased that our municipal partners in Upper Merion and throughout the county, the region, and at the state and federal level are working diligently with us to protect our residents, our environment, and our property,” said Montgomery County Commissioners Chair Josh Shapiro.

Members of the media wishing to observe the exercise **must** report to the main staging area in the parking lot at 4000 Geerdes Boulevard, King of Prussia. They will be escorted from there to safe vantage points to observe exercise activities. The Abrams rail yard is an active rail facility and is private property. Everyone who enters the property will have to sign-in and sign waivers.

Questions should be directed to Montgomery County Department of Public Safety Deputy Director of External Affairs, John Corcoran, at jcorcora@montcopa.org.