

STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

TRAIN DERAILMENT (MCI) SCENARIO SUMMARY

**How To Use This Document:** *This scenario intended as a “95% solution”, with local planners tailoring the scenario to their objectives and the unique hazards of their environment. As an example, for jurisdictions without extensive rail traffic, they could substitute the train with another large vehicle such as additional buses (e.g. commuter), public transit (light rail, commuter train, etc.), an aircraft, etc.*

*A suggested number of dead and wounded is listed, however it should be tailored locally. The jurisdiction/agency/organization is encouraged to examine what would constitute a mass casualty incident and potential medical surge to their system and adjust the numbers accordingly.*

*Bracketed text (e.g., [your jurisdiction]) is provided to aid with location-specific tailoring.*

SCENARIO

A train is travelling through [insert local jurisdiction] with an estimated 100 cars of mixed freight (including [hoppers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covered_hopper) and [tank wagons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tank_wagon)). At a level crossing near a busy intersection, dozens of vehicles on either side of the tracks wait for the train to pass including two school buses carrying their maximum capacity of 60 K-8 children each. The grade crossing signal malfunctions, causing the gate to open early. While most vehicle drivers understand there has been a malfunction and that the train is still approaching, one impatient driver of a large van attempts to move across the tracks before the train comes through. The movement happens too quickly for the engineer to slow the train significantly.

At 0800 local time, the train strikes the van, instantly killing the driver and setting off a chain reaction that begins with a 23-car derailment. Multiple tank cars jump the tracks and strike idling vehicles in the road, including the two school buses. Several of the tank cars carrying [insert substance] overturn.

First responders arrive on the scene within minutes. Based on the size of the event and estimated numbers of casualties, the crash is declared a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and various agencies, including but not limited to law, fire, EMS, and healthcare facilities, are notified based upon local MCI policies and procedures. MCI triage standard operating procedures (SOP) are immediately implemented (e.g. START/Jump START) with victims at the site.

The fire department weighs the possibility of an evacuation or shelter in place order due to initial concerns regarding a potential breach of the train cars carrying [insert substance]. There is discussion that evacuation area might be as large as a one-mile radius from the train derailment site. The Fire Department also confirms that there is no risk of contamination to victims. The area being considered for evacuation/shelter in place includes many businesses, healthcare facilities (skilled nursing facilities, long term care facilities, etc.), and residences. Law enforcement closes surrounding roads to through traffic. Because the motivations of the driver who crossed the tracks have not been ascertained, the area is being treated as a possible crime scene.

Seventeen people have been killed and 113 have been injured, including many of the children that were on the school buses. The scale and nature of the incident, especially the involvement of injured and deceased children, is proving to be psychologically challenging even for veteran first responders. At 0850, the first patients begin arriving at local hospitals.