Minter City, MS Derailment

30 March 2015
Minter City Derailment

- 9 rail cars derailed
  - Lumber – Auto racks – 1 Hazmat (DCPD)
- Rural agricultural area and woodlands impacted.
- MDEQ responded immediately and relayed assessment data internally and to EPA.
- RP initiated an immediate and appropriate response to the incident.
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• Resin Oils Heavy
  – Main component is DCPD (Dicyclopentadiene)
  – Produced in the steam cracking of naptha and gas oils to ethylene
  – Major uses: resins, inks, adhesives and paints
  – 0.003 odor threshold
  – Flammable: 1% to 10% range
  – Toxic to kidneys, liver, GI tract, upper respiratory tract, skin, eyes, CNS.
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• Challenges
  – Coordination of multiple priorities
    • Derail/Rerail
    • Response/Cleanup
    • RR Dangerous Goods transition to Environmental
    • RR Engineering and Maintenance of Way
      – Undercutting
      – Rouge excavator
  – Don’t assume everyone knows ICS or how to function within the ICS framework.
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• Challenges
  – Landowners
    • 2 landowners impacted, one of which is a family of three lawyers. They in turn hired legal representation almost immediately.
    • Were on site unannounced almost daily.
      – Very dangerous situation: rail traffic, work activities, potential for exposure to DCPD.
    • Slowed site activity due to routing of all requests through attorneys for landowners and RR.
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• What went right?
  – No casualties!
  – RP was present and engaged throughout.
  – ICS was established very early and was a critical component in managing a challenging response.
  – Everybody learned something...good or bad.
    • Competing priorities have to be considered.
    • See the big picture.
    • I should have gone to law school.

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Questions?