



FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

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Railroad Fire Incident Reporting

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE, Fire Marshal Division, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, MI 48913

Many fires occur each year along railroads. These fires, in most cases, are caused by railroad engine exhaust systems or the wheels and brakes of railroad vehicle. Multiple fires usually are set by a single train passing through a given area.

Because of these fires, needless expenses have been incurred by communities, natural resources and property have been destroyed, and human lives have been jeopardized. In an attempt to reduce this fire problem, the following procedure is implemented.

Railroad Fire Incident Procedure

Upon determining a fire was, or probably was, started by a railroad vehicle, the responding fire department should notify the State Police Post in that area. (See Attachment #1)

At the time of this call, the following information should be supplied:

Date	Railroad Line Involved
Time	(See Attachments #2)
Fire Department Reporting/Responding	Engine Number(s)
County of Incident	Direction of Travel
Township	Multiple Incidents/Number of, if any additional pertinent information

Attached to this Bulletin is a Railroad Information Form (Attachment #3) which may be used to assure that necessary information is obtained when reporting railroad fire incidents.

If the responding fire department has not already done so, and when a railroad fire call is received at the State Police Post, the officer receiving the call shall contact, for their information, the appropriate railroad dispatch office (See Attachment #2). Operations shall also be advised of the fire incident, via LEIN. Prior to notifying Operations, the officer receiving a fire call may need to contact the next State Police Post which is in the direction the train is traveling and obtain additional needed information. The Post should also contact the closest DNR office for their follow-up.

When Operations receives a railroad fire LEIN message, it should include most or all of the information identified on the Railroad Fire Information Form. This message will then be forwarded to Fire Marshal Division Headquarters for dissemination to and further action by the:

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Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Steven T. Mason Building
Lansing, MI 48909
Telephone: 517/373-1275

MFIRS Reporting Required

The reporting by a fire department of a railroad fire incident to the appropriate State Police Post does not alleviate the need for submittal of Michigan Fire Incident Reports by the involved fire department(s). If the situation is handled by the DNR and no fire department is involved, the DNR will furnish the necessary information for the completion of these reports to the fire department having jurisdiction.

Enforcement

Any enforcement action taken resulting from a fire started by a railroad vehicle shall be in compliance with Act No. 329, of the Public Acts of 1969, as amended, M.C.L. 320.21 through 320.38.

Fire Suppression Expenses

M.C.L. 320.31 has provisions for reimbursement of fire suppression expenses.

The Forest Management Division of the Department of Natural Resources will provide to fire departments, information concerning procedures to follow for fire suppression cost reimbursement. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources can assist fire departments requesting reimbursement for fire fighting expenses if a railroad company does not reimburse within the time frame specified by statute.

Through the prompt reporting of incidents, fire suppression expenses and efforts can be held to a minimum.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the Fire Marshal Division at (517) 322-1924.

Please be advised that recipients of any Fire Marshal Bulletin may treat the contents as a news release. Feel free to insert your department, association, or individual name where appropriate when contact is made with local news media or other sources of dissemination.

Attachments

1. Michigan State Police Post and District Telephone Numbers
2. State Railroad Map, Railroad Dispatch Locations and Telephone Numbers
3. Railroad Fire Information Form
4. Department of Natural Resources Forest Management Division Staff Locations and Telephone Numbers