

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
SIMMONS CREEK RAILROAD FIRE - Removal Polrep  
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
INITIAL/FINAL  
SIMMONS CREEK RAILROAD FIRE  
Jackson, AL  
Latitude: 31.5508915 Longitude: -87.7674580

**To:** Matt Taylor, USEPA R4 ERRB  
Phil Woods, ADEM-Mobile ER

**From:** Dean Ullock, On Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 1/15/2010

**Reporting Period:** 01/15/2010

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>		<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA/OPA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	1/13/2010	<b>Start Date:</b>	1/13/2010
<b>Demob Date:</b>	1/14/2010	<b>Completion Date:</b>	1/14/2010
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

Emergency Response

**1.1.2 Site Description**

**Railroad Tracks used by Norfolk Southern**

**1.1.2.1 Location**

CLARKE County, ALABAMA near Jackson, AL  
Fire occurred near Railroad Mile Post MB 79.1

**N 31 32. 944'**

**W 087 46. 038'**

**1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Diesel Fuel upon Simmons Creek and Bassett Creek.

**1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

An estimated 24,000 gallons of diesel fuel was consumed in the blaze. No other HAZMAT involved.

**2. Current Activities**

**2.1 Operations Section**

**2.1.1 Narrative**

At 0116hrs on 1/13/2010, Norfolk Southern reported three train engines caught fire near Jackson, Alabama, while attempting to avoid a fire that had been started by work being conducted on the track. Clarke County EMA reported that the incident was in a remote location and local fire departments were unable to move equipment in to fight the fire. The engines had stopped on a trestle bridge over Simmons Creek. Norfolk Southern contracted USES to establish boom and collection points along Bassett Creek (the total capacity of each engine's fuel tank is 8,000 gallons of diesel) but no release could be confirmed during the night. EPA OSC Mobile, AL Outpost, Dean Ullock, was dispatched to the scene to support ADEM and oversee response operations.

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

OSC Ullock responded to the scene early on the morning of 01/13/2010. OSC Ullock immediately joined the Unified Command which was comprised of Senior Representatives of Norfolk Southern RR, Clarke County EMA and the ADEM. OSC Ullock was provided a thorough incident brief. After observing the effects of the fire on Simmons Creek and the surrounding area beneath the trestle, OSC Ullock then issued NS reps. a NOFI. NS committed to maintain their OSRO Contractor @ 10-15 personnel for the duration of the locomotive recovery and preform all necessary remediation actions required by EPA and the State of Alabama. As a precaution the OSRO, under the direction of the State OSC and EPA, set 7 boom sets along Simmons Creek (6ea.) and Bassett Creek (1 ea.) Immediately proceeding the fire, a very small amount of oily ash and soot was present upon the creek. As this materials slowly accumulates, it is being gathered using sorbent booms and pads, and manual labor and will be disposed of accordingly.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Continued recovery of the three burned locomotives, rebuilding of the railroad bed and track and ultimate reopening of the track.

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Emergency Reponse phase is complete.

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

Compile a remediation "punchlist" on conduct walkthrough of Site with OSRO, ADEM and Norfolk Southern reps.

**2.2.2 Issues**

No issues at this time.

**2.3 Logistics Section**

N/A

**2.4 Finance Section**

**2.4.1 Narrative**

N/A

**2.5 Other Command Staff**

**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

N/A

**2.6 Liaison Officer**

N/A

**2.7 Information Officer**

**2.7.1 Public Information Officer**

N/A

**2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator**

N/A

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

Members of the Unified Command for the Emergency Response phase of this incident are Norfolk Southern Railroad, the ADEM, Clarke County EMA Director.

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

N/A

**4. Personnel On Site**

1 ea. EPA OSC

**5. Definition of Terms**

N/A

**6. Additional sources of information**

**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

N/A

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

N/A

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

N/A

POLREP #1 Last Updated 1/15/2010