



Gas Line Explosion in Sissonville, WV

On December 11, 2012, at around 1:00 p.m. a gas line exploded along I-77 in Sissonville, West Virginia. Fortunately there were no serious injuries from this massive explosion, although several people were treated for smoke inhalation. The explosion sent flames shooting 100 feet into the air and destroyed approximately 800 feet of I-77, melting guardrails and asphalt on both the north- and south-bound lanes. The blast also destroyed one house and damaged several others in the area and destroyed a small section of County Road 21. Local fire departments were able to contain the blaze within an hour of the explosion.

When asked what was most memorable about the gas line explosion and fire, Kanawha County Fire Coordinator C.W. Sigman replied, "That no one was seriously injured and how well the fire departments responded. They didn't rush to put out the fire. They assessed the situation before they moved in."

Sigman was one of many emergency personnel who participated in the RDPC's AWR 225 - *Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Response for Rural First Responders* course developed by East Tennessee State University earlier that year. Sigman expressed that training such as

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Department of Homeland Security Certifies New RDPC Courses

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has recently certified seven new courses, expanding the training available through the RDPC to rural areas across the United States. Developed by the academic partners of the RDPC, these courses are tailored specifically for emergency responders and stakeholders in rural communities that face unique challenges in meeting their homeland security responsibilities.

AWR 302 Pipeline Security in Rural Communities

This eight-hour, awareness-level course is designed to bring together rural pipeline security stakeholders including public safety, oil and gas pipeline representatives (large and small), local emergency planners, pertinent federal agencies, and other community stakeholders to recognize pipeline security threats and identify mitigation strategies within their jurisdictions to ensure that the rural pipeline sector is secure and resilient.

AWR 305 Bioterrorism Awareness: Collaboration Among Rural First Responders & Health Professionals

This eight-hour, awareness-level course is designed to teach first responders and health professionals the importance of collaboration as they effectively and efficiently respond to situations involving biological agents. Participants will learn to apply information from various emergency response guides focusing primarily on the use of software, now available on multiple computer and web-based platforms, in order to quickly assess a bioterrorism event, diagnose victims, and improve communication between responders and hospital personnel.

MGT 401 Planning and Intervention for Gangs, Hate and Terrorist Groups in Rural Jails and Prisons

This eight-hour, management-level instructor-led course focuses on rural correctional facilities as unique environments for threat group recruitment and radicalization. The course examines the processes by which recruitment and radicalization occur and proposes methods for strengthening information gathering and sharing.

MGT 402 Mitigation Planning for Rural Communities

This eight-hour, management-level course is designed to prepare community and organizational leaders for the development and execution of community or company mitigation strategies. Rural communities face a broad range of risks brought on by natural events and human activity. The course provides participants an opportunity to explore the process of guiding rural communities through the development of all-hazards mitigation strategies on a regional, local, or organizational level based on specific hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities.

MGT 410 Business Continuity Planning for Rural Power Companies

This eight-hour, management-level course is designed to inform risk managers and business continuity planners of rural power companies and their key partners how to develop a comprehensive and effective business continuity program to rapidly restore service in response to an emergency event and take steps to ensure long-term recovery.

MGT 415 Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities

This eight-hour, management-level course teaches community leaders and emergency managers in rural communities how to plan for and execute disaster recovery efforts. Upon implementation, this course will assist rural communities with expediting disaster recovery efforts and facilitating the long-term economic success of their communities.

MGT 416 Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities

This eight-hour, management-level course is designed to help government officials and emergency responders from rural communities in the development of plans that will ensure the continuity of essential government functions across a spectrum of emergencies.



To learn more about these new courses or any of the other free training available through the RDPC, visit our website - www.ruraltraining.org.

New RDPC Website

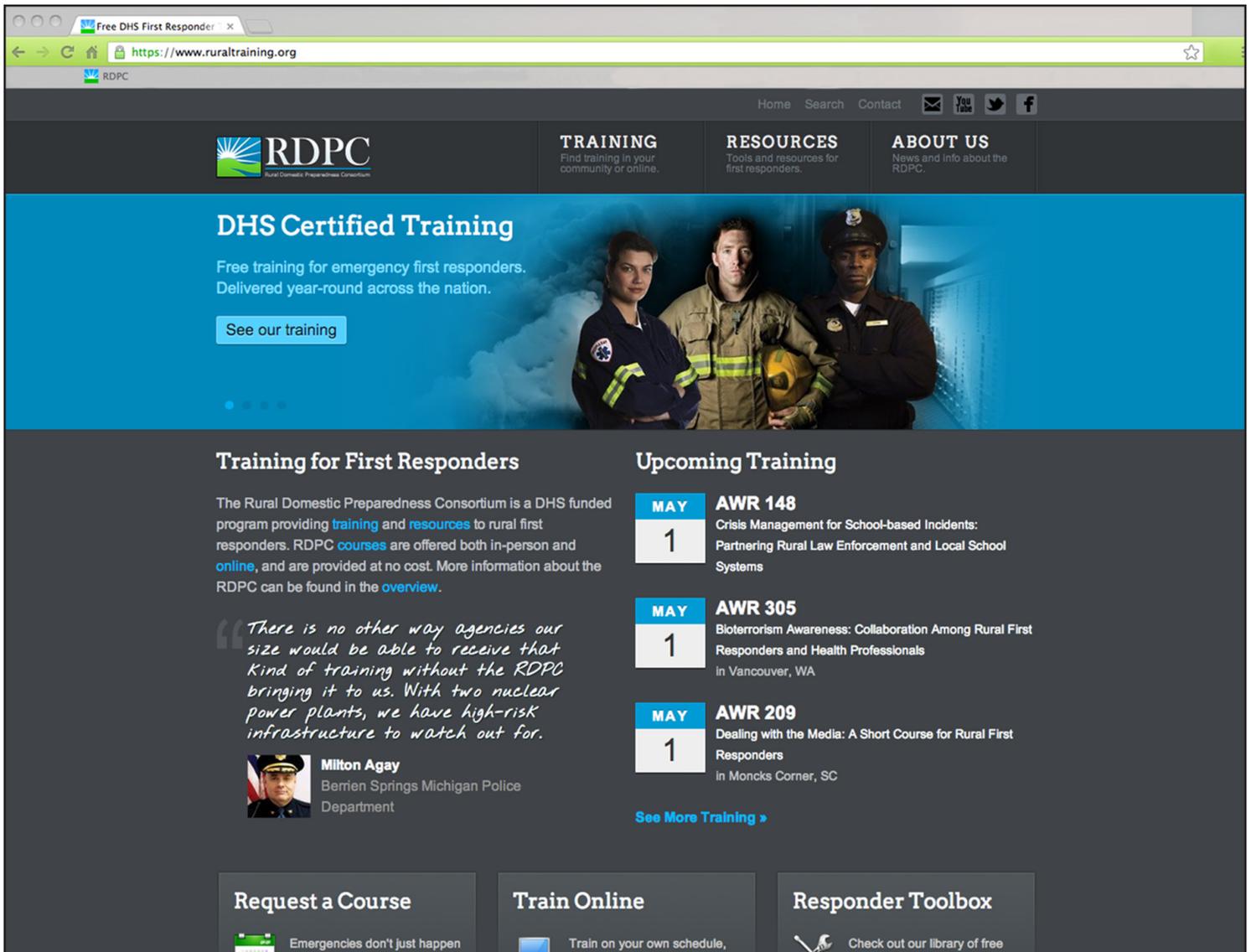
The RDPC has updated the website with a new layout that makes it easier for users to find the information they need. The most noticeable differences include a change in color scheme to give the site a simplified and cohesive appearance, the addition and repetition of links to improve site navigation, and the reorganization of sections to improve flow and ensure information can be found quickly.

One of the most popular features of the RDPC website is the training page, which features an interactive map of upcoming training, and a full listing of classes to be offered. Using these features, users of the website can determine which classes are being offered in their area and when. If training is not available in their area, users can request a class by completing a form.

A portion of the upcoming training schedule also appears on the homepage, along with the latest news about the program such as new course certifications. In addition, a new Responder Toolbox section was created which includes resources such as software and planning tools for emergency responders, training needs assessments, reports on course performance, and current and past issues of the RDPC quarterly newsletter.

The website also serves as the launching point for students to take the RDPC web-based courses. A new Online Training section aggregates web-based courses and leads users straight to the curriculum after a few quick enrollment steps.

The RDPC encourages you to visit the new website at www.ruraltraining.org. 



The screenshot shows the RDPC website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Search, and Contact, along with social media icons for YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. The RDPC logo is prominently displayed on the left. The main content area features a large blue banner for "DHS Certified Training" with a photo of three emergency responders and a "See our training" button. Below this, there are two columns: "Training for First Responders" with a testimonial from Milton Agay, and "Upcoming Training" listing three courses (AWR 148, AWR 305, and AWR 209) for May 1st. At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Request a Course", "Train Online", and "Responder Toolbox".

Train Many with ITV

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The RDPC is implementing a new method for training delivery to support responders who benefit from classroom interaction, but may be unable to travel to a central location due to costs or other reasons.

The RDPC now offers distance learning training where several sites can be bridged together and receive training conducted from one central location, yet broadcast to multiple sites simultaneously. Interactive Television (ITV) training provides for real-time face-to-face interactivity and impact several areas at once.

This will significantly reduce travel time and the costs associated with driving to and from the training sites. With reduced budgets and personnel cut-backs that most departments are facing, this will be an advantageous solution to get much needed

training while limiting expenses.

The state of Wyoming has successfully embraced ITV training and recently offered one of the RDPC's courses, *AWR 148 Crisis Management for School-based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement and Local School Systems*. Wyoming realized the value in the capability of ITV to reach many trainees at one time without asking them to travel to one central location from all parts of a geographically expansive state.

When asked what kind of feedback is received from participants of ITV training, Leslie Brown, video scheduler for the Wyoming Department of Enterprise Technology Services, noted "They like the face-to-face interactive conferencing and the fact that it saves on travel." The equipment used for ITV training is typically easy to use

and allows instructors to interact with all participants in the training or classroom. Ms. Brown indicated that ITV training has had a positive impact on training expenses in Wyoming, noting, "We do not have [training assistants] for any of our sites." Wyoming has more than 200 ITV sites across the state, with the ability to link together more than 50 sites at once.

Wyoming has demonstrated how ITV can be an effective and valuable form of training especially for organizations that are spread out over large distances. If you are interested in learning more about using ITV for RDPC training deliveries, email info@ruraltraining.org or call the RDPC help desk 24/7 at 877-855-RDPC(7372). 

FEMA Student Identification

If you have recently participated in one of the training courses offered through the RDPC, a FEMA Student Identification (SID) may have been required to register. A FEMA SID is a unique number generated and assigned to anyone who needs or is required to take training provided by a FEMA training partner. The goal is for your FEMA SID to serve as your personal identification number instead of your Social Security Number (SSN) in support of FEMA's effort

to decrease/cease the use of SSN for identifying and tracking individuals.

Your FEMA SID uniquely identifies you throughout the FEMA organization and all of its training partners. Since the RDPC is under the FEMA umbrella, a FEMA SID is required to register for and participate in all of the courses offered. Your FEMA SID merges/links/connects/combines all of your FEMA training records under one account

to simplify the management of all your FEMA training accomplishments.

If you do not have a FEMA SID and plan to take a RDPC or other FEMA training course in the future, you can request a SID by going to <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/>. You can also find a link to request a SID through the RDPC website at www.ruraltraining.org. The registration process takes approximately 15 minutes. 



The RDPC is pleased to spotlight Mr. Tim Maloney, an adjunct instructor for the *AWR 148 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement and the Local School Systems* course, which is delivered by the All Hazards Training Center at the University of Findlay, a member of the RDPC.

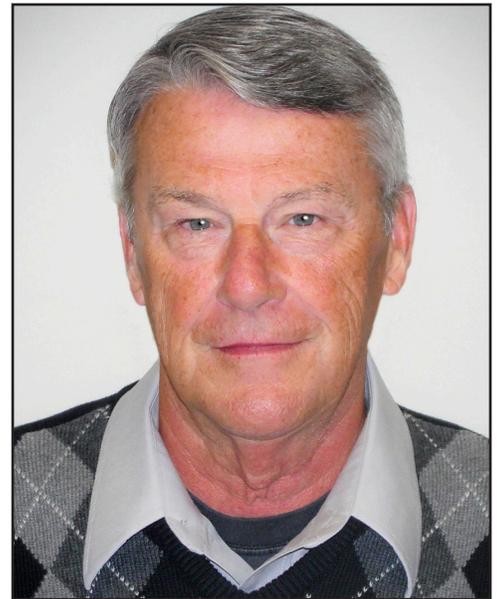
Mr. Maloney has 39 years of experience as a professional in law enforcement and U.S. Armed Forces veteran. He is also a subject matter expert in the areas of crisis management, investigative techniques, and psychometric testing and evaluation. Mr. Maloney's career spans nearly four decades which includes both local and federal law enforcement and academic employment associated with teaching and practical implementation of law enforcement principles.

During his tenure with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Mr. Maloney was a certified police instructor, crisis/

hostage negotiator, designated member of the Critical Incident Negotiation Team (CINT), testing administrator/evaluator for the FBI Undercover program for operatives throughout the United States and abroad, peer counselor and representative for the FBI Employee Assistance Program (EAP), counselor for children whose parent(s) were killed in the line of duty, Fugitive Task Force coordinator, Intelligence Operations specialist, counselor for the FBI National Academy, and crisis management instructor for local law enforcement in Pennsylvania.

Early in his law enforcement career, Mr. Maloney served as a county probation officer for four years and a prison counselor for six years with responsibility to develop treatment plans and serve as liaison for the court system. Following retirement from the FBI in May 2002, Mr. Maloney served as a County Detective for the District Attorney's office in Erie, PA. Mr. Maloney also became a consultant and the Associate Director of the Public Safety Institute for Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA. Most recently Mr. Maloney has worked under contract as an evaluator and vulnerability assessor for the Department of the Treasury for the past three years.

It is a privilege to have many experienced instructors such as Mr. Maloney



Tim Maloney

leading training courses available through the RDPC. If you would like to learn more about the instructors that lead the RDPC courses, visit - <https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/instructors/>.



FINDLAY
THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY

Ohio Train Derailment

In the early morning hours of July 11, 2012, just outside Columbus, OH, a mile long freight train went off the rails. Officials reported that around 2 a.m. that Wednesday morning, 11 of the 98 freight cars derailed. Three of the cars were carrying a combined 90,000 gallons of ethanol that burst into flames when the train left the tracks. The reason for the accident has not been released by the National Transportation Safety Board as of yet.

Two people were injured while walking near the accident scene to investigate when a second explosion occurred. Officials reported the two injured people transported themselves to the hospital with minor injuries. As a safety precaution, anyone living within one mile of the crash site was



evacuated from their homes. Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman said the accident could have been worse if it had occurred in an area where more people lived, "I'm grateful, in one respect as well, that this did not occur in a more populated area near more residents." "It could have been tragic in other ways as well", offered Mayor Coleman.

William E. Brobst, Jr., captain of the City of Columbus Hazardous Materials Response team and instructor for the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) offered, "It is unfortunate that injuries occurred with this accident, but these types of incidents afford us the opportunity to put into practice what is taught in the class and improve

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TRAINING AMERICA'S RURAL RESPONDERS

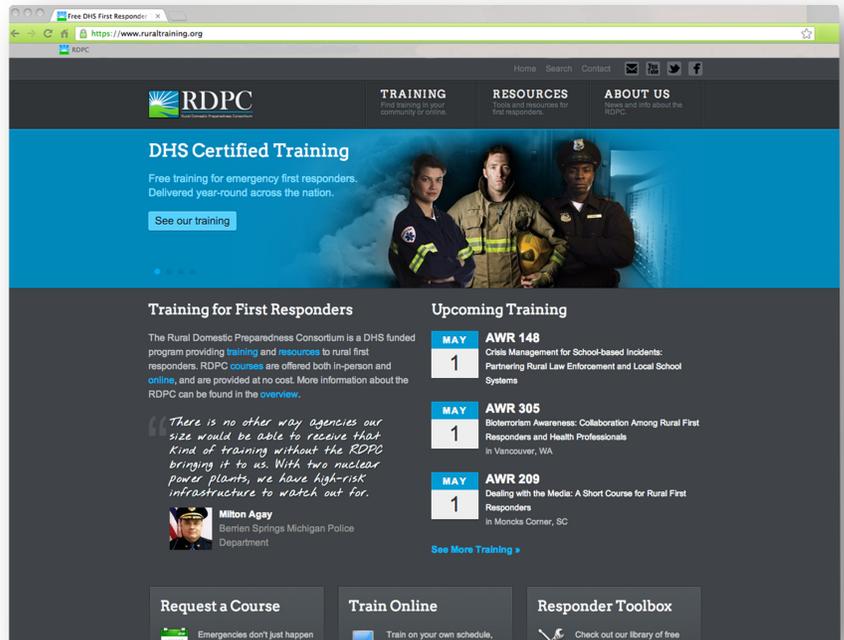
Register On-Line!

RDPC prepares you for the unique situations facing communities in rural America. We train responders using the latest U.S. Department of Homeland Security-approved curriculum. Log on to our website today for training schedules, registration, and more information.

www.ruraltraining.org



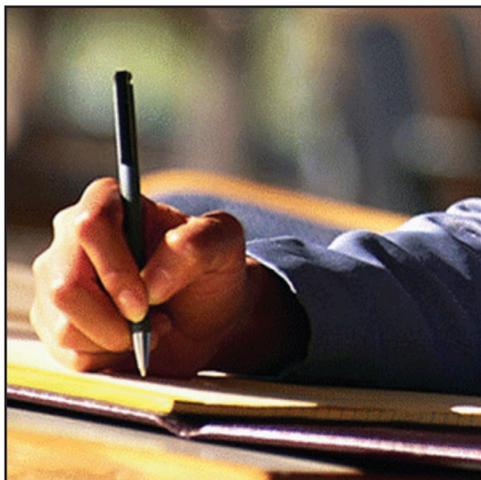
Prepare For The Worst, Train To Be The Best



TELL US YOUR STORY!

Do you have a story about your rural community? Whether you want to share an experience, best practice, or just let us know what life is like for a rural first responder, we'd love to hear it. Your story may be featured in an upcoming newsletter, or we could even show up on your doorstep with camera in hand to feature the story on the RDPC's Rural Responder Network.

To submit your story idea, contact Jessica Melton at jmelton@centertech.com. For more information about RDPC, email helpdesk@ruraltraining.org.



RDPC and Social Media

It probably comes as no surprise that social media has become an extremely popular form of communication. Over the past few years, social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and others have become a predominant way for people to keep in touch, let others know about yourself and your activities, and see what friends and relatives have been doing. As the world dives deeper into the information age, social media sites continue to become more popular as a form of communication.

The public and private sectors have recognized that social media sites have the potential to reach millions of people and are utilizing those outlets more and more. The RDPC has also recognized the popularity and usefulness of social media as a powerful form of communication and outreach for its services. The RDPC has a Facebook page, a Twitter account, and a YouTube channel with plans of using additional social media outlets in the near future. The RDPC has utilized social media to keep followers informed about the free training available for first responders,

emergency managers, health care providers, businesses, school personnel, and local government officials in small, rural, and tribal communities across America.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is a prime example of a public sector organization that utilizes social media as a form of outreach to keep citizens informed. During the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) used Facebook and Twitter to keep people informed of available shelters, food banks, and other important services that were available. This is just one of many examples of ways social media is a useful media outlet for public organizations.

The private sector has also realized the powerful marketing tool that social media has become. Businesses large and small no longer have to rely on television, radio, and print media to reach customers. With a single “post”, “tweet”, or upload, businesses can reach hundreds, thousands, even millions of potential customers which could have a large impact on traffic to their websites or business locations.

The RDPC YouTube channel includes short videos about some of the courses available and academic partners – East Tennessee State University, Eastern Kentucky University, North Carolina Central University, North West Arkansas Community College, The University of Findlay, and University of California Davis.

Twitter and Facebook are used to keep followers informed about the happenings of the RDPC. We continually post pictures of training deliveries, links to our YouTube videos, new course announcements, photos from events and conferences the RDPC attends, as well as and other relevant information.

If you are a long time social media user or just getting started, we encourage you to visit the RDPC website as a starting point to navigate to each of our social media pages. From there you can subscribe to Facebook, Twitter, or Youtube to keep informed about the important work we are doing at the RDPC. If you haven't yet embraced social media, maybe now is the time to give it a try!





KUDOS

The RDPC recently delivered the AWR 232 *Mass Fatalities Planning and Response in Rural Communities* course in Albany, GA. Among the 41 participants was **Sue M. Clifton**, the Healthcare Community Liaison for Southwest Georgia Public Health District 8-2. Ms. Clifton shared her comments and feedback she received about the course.

If you would like to share your RDPC experience, email info@ruraltraining.org.

"I want to thank [The RDPC] so much for allowing us the opportunity to host the mass fatality planning course in Albany, GA. The course material was spot on. It was exactly what we needed to jump-start our regional mass fatality planning efforts. We had the right mix of folks in the class, and I heard nothing but positive feedback and enthusiasm from the group. In fact, I have received email from several who attended, thanking us for hosting the course. [The instructor] kept us engaged, encouraged feedback/questions, and shared relevant real-world experiences that helped bring home the important points of the class."

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Gas Line Explosion

the CBRNE class is "very helpful in preparing for, and knowing how to weigh your options before acting" during these types of events. Sigman also stated that there have been other incidents involving CBRNE in the Sissonville area, mainly transportation accidents involving chemical spills.

When asked about the free AWR 225 *CBRNE Response for Rural First Responders* course, Sigman stated that it was a "great format, not drawn out, and the instructor was knowledgeable."

AWR 225 CBRNE Response for Rural First Responders, provides rural first responders with an introduction to CBRNE materials and agents. The course imparts a basic understanding of CBRNE dangers, safe scene assessment, use of field guides, and components of CBRNE operations. Students put information into practice through the use of video scenarios of CBRNE incidents.



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Ohio Train Derailment

the response should it happen again. I was able to use much of the training information that we share in the RDPC *AWR 147 Railcar Incident Response* course on this incident. I also have some lessons learned that will be going into updates in the course materials."

Approximately 100 residents living within a one-mile radius of the derailment were evacuated by the Columbus Fire Department while the fire burned, according to Whiting. Officials said the burning ethanol, an alcohol compound commonly used in fuel, posed no environmental or health concerns. Residents were back in their homes by mid-afternoon.

Norfolk Southern spokesman Dave Pidgeon said the 98-car-freight train was traveling from Chicago to Linwood, NC. Around 11 cars ended up going off the tracks, including the three hauling ethanol. Fortunately, no one aboard the train was hurt. Patricia Reilly, a spokeswoman for the American Association of Railroads, said

"freight train accidents are uncommon, given the volume of freight that is transported around the country by trains."

Last year was one of the safest years ever for US railroads, Reilly said. "I think one accident is a horrible thing," said Reilly, "But it's always a good education to understand in context what that represents in the big picture."

The Columbus derailment is a great example of why it is important to always be prepared for emergencies that can affect your community.

AWR 147 Rail Car Incident Response is an eight-hour, awareness-level course developed to increase the knowledge of first responders in recognizing and characterizing the different types of rail cars, potential leaks, and courses of action to be taken based on initial site assessment. To learn more about this course or the many other courses available through the RDPC, visit the website at www.ruraltraining.org.

