

## RESIDENT RAILCAR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Bakken Crude Oil** is one of a wide selection of hazardous materials transported by the rail line through Teaneck. The rail line has been active since 1873 and as far as Township records show, there have only been two train accidents in Teaneck; one in 1930 and one in 1960. In both accidents, no hazardous materials were released and there was no injury or damage to Teaneck residents or businesses along the track. There have been several cargo fires and releases of Anhydrous Ammonia and Muriatic Acid vapors. Teaneck Fire Department has long been prepared for such occurrences. The 1977 Anhydrous Ammonia release occurred in the early morning hours on a hot night in 1977. It resulted in 50 people being brought to hospital emergency rooms, but few required more than that care. Since CSX took over the rail line, there have been no rail emergencies.

CSX track maintenance is nationally recognized for excellence. It is still incumbent on Teaneck's public safety agencies and residents to continue to be ready. Trains traveling through Teaneck carry sulfuric acid, propane, industrial alcohol, liquefied petroleum gas, anhydrous ammonia, vinyl chloride, and a host of other hazardous materials.

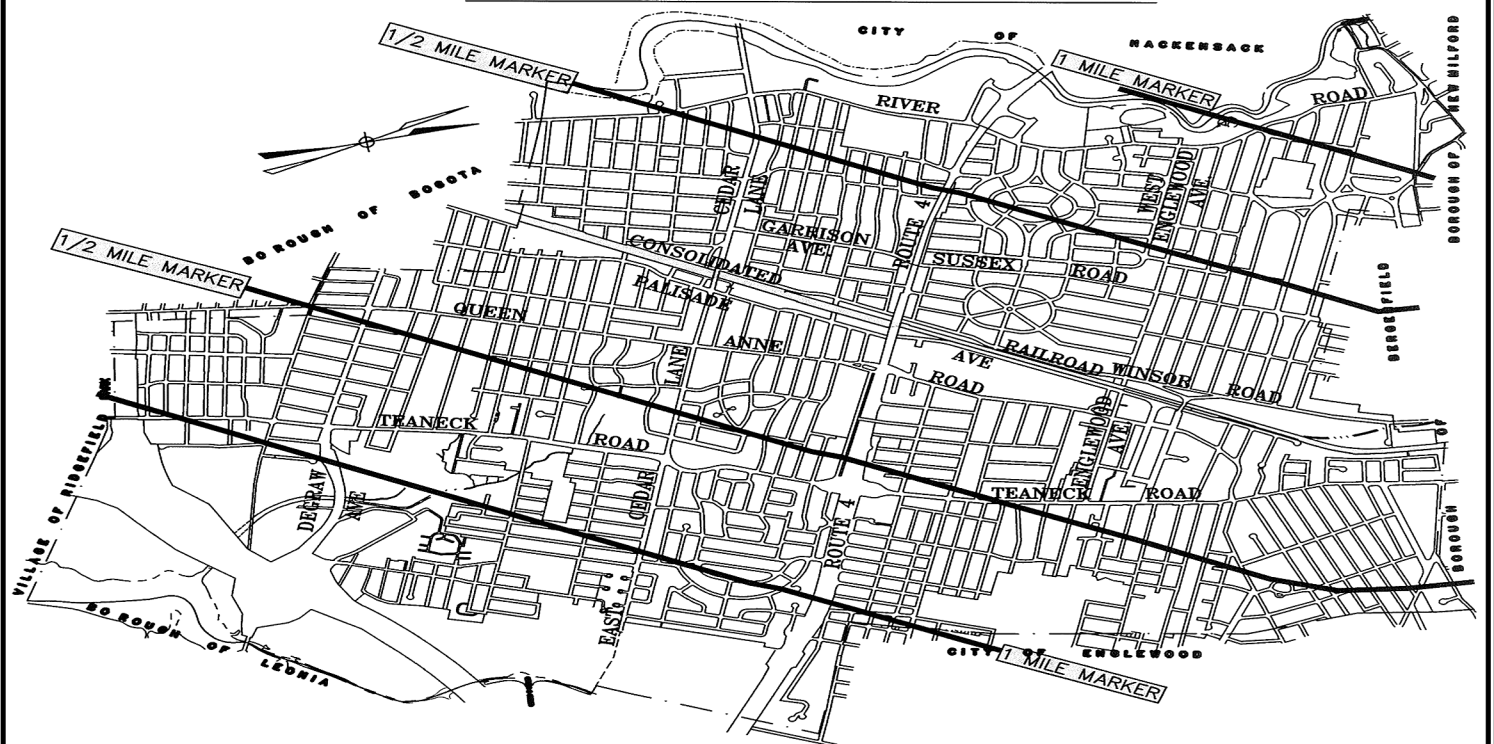
The most recent concern is Bakken crude oil being shipped from the Dakotas to the Philadelphia area. Bakken crude oil is petroleum from the Bakken shale formation. It is a mixture of flammable and combustible liquids and gasses in the natural state that it was recovered from the ground. It is flammable at all local temperatures and is volatile because of dissolved gasses, such as butane. While a rail emergency is unlikely, if one occurs, it will be a major emergency. Due to Teaneck's population density, an evacuation order will require at least 8,000 people to immediately leave their homes, schools, or other places to move at least 1/2 mile from the rail line.

Announcements of the initial evacuation and follow up information will be made by the reverse emergency calling system (Swift 911), Township alert system, Nixle, mobile public address units and the soon to be installed Audible Neighborhood Emergency Alert System. The most important component in an emergency is your preparedness. You are encouraged to review the Township's "Resident Preparedness Guide for Emergencies". You will find the guide on the Township's website: [www.teanecknj.gov](http://www.teanecknj.gov). You should sign up for all of the various notification systems on the Township's website. Listed here are key areas in which preparedness is important in order for you to manage the potential impact of a rail line incident:

### Evacuation Routes:

The areas that will be evacuated depend on the exact location of the incident. If you are located within one half mile of the incident you may be told to evacuate. If you live on the east side of the railroad, you should evacuate via the nearest east bound through street from your home. If you live on the west side of the railroad, you should evacuate via the nearest west bound through street from your home. These streets should be identified in advance of an emergency. Please reference the attached **RAILROAD INCIDENT EVACUATION MAP**, which shows the Township's established evacuation zone for one half mile of the railroad tracks. If you have any mobility concerns, please call '911' during an emergency. However, it is imperative for everyone to have a plan for evacuation before an emergency situation calls for you to do so. Often federal and state highways and other primary roads are designated as evacuation routes by authorities. Be aware that the Township's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) may issue specific evacuation routes.

RAILROAD INCIDENT EVACUATION MAP



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



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We recommend you leave the Township as the nature of the emergency will make traveling difficult if not impossible.

Identify in advance where you will stay after you leave the local area. This could be at the home of a family member, a friend or a hotel/motel that meets your family's needs.

### Meeting Places:

Make sure that your loved ones know where to go after getting out of the house. Pick two places to meet: 1) in your neighborhood in proximity to your house in the case of a sudden emergency such as a fire and 2) outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.

### Emergency Family Contacts:

Pick your family contacts: two people you and your family members can call in case you are separated in an emergency and need to report in regarding your status (example: "we are okay"). Remember that local telephone service may be disrupted. So it is important to have both a local contact and one who is outside of the area—preferably in another state.

### Unique Needs:

Your emergency plan options must be able to accommodate any unique needs related to family pets, infants or small children and any family members with health, disability or mobility issues. If someone has trouble seeing, hearing, walking, responding to instructions, or has medical problems, you will have more to do to be prepared for an emergency. Furthermore, each household should prepare a "To Go" Kit.

## **CONTENTS OF "TO GO" KITS:**

### **For Adults, Elderly or Disabled**

- ◆ Prescription drugs (one-week supply minimum)
- ◆ Extra eye glasses or contact lenses and supplies
- ◆ Mobility aids (wheelchair, cane)
- ◆ Hearing aids and extra batteries
- ◆ Special medical supplies (colostomy supplies, insulin and syringes, denture supplies)
- ◆ Entertainment items (games, cards, books)



### **Important Family Documents**

- ◆ Drivers license and passports
- ◆ Credit card account numbers
- ◆ Bank account numbers
- ◆ Inventory and pictures of valuable household goods
- ◆ Certificates of birth, marriage, etc.
- ◆ Family health information (allergies, special treatment needs and the like)

### **For Pets**

- ◆ Pet food and treats
- ◆ Collar, leash and identification tags
- ◆ Muzzle (if needed)
- ◆ Pet carrier or cage
- ◆ Medicines
- ◆ Copy of immunization records
- ◆ Comfort items (bed, special blanket, favorite toy)

The Red Cross has a **Safe and Well** registry that enables people within a disaster area to let their friends and family outside of the affected region know of their well-being. Also, there is telephone based assistance at **1-866-GET-INFO** for people without internet access.

Remember, look out for your neighbors, stay informed, plan, prepare, and respond.

## **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact our community. The program will train residents in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The Teaneck CERT team is supervised by the Township's Office of Emergency Management. Any resident interested in attending CERT training can e-mail [Tsmith@teanecknj.gov](mailto:Tsmith@teanecknj.gov).

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## Sign Up For Emergency Alerts!

Residents can sign up to receive several different e-mail, text and/or telephone alerts about township events or emergencies and severe weather incidents.

To begin the sign-up process, go to the Township website at [www.teanecknj.gov](http://www.teanecknj.gov), click on “**Sign Up for Township Alerts**” on the left-hand side menu of the home page. You will be taken to a page with several alert options to sign up for. Select “**Township Email Alerts:**” to sign up to receive emails sent by Teaneck Township. Fill out the form and click “Sign Up For Township Newsletters” in the lower left corner.

Also on the Township alert sign-up page, there is a “**Swiftreach 9-1-1**” link where you can sign up for the Swiftreach Emergency Notifications by phone, email, and text message. Click the “**Register Now**” link and complete the form at the Swiftreach sign up. After completing the form, you will receive a **4-digit Confirmation Code** via email or phone message. Upon receiving the confirmation code, enter it into the “Registration Verification” box and click “Complete Registration”. You are now registered with Swiftreach to receive alerts through your landline telephone, cellular phone, and via text message. Save your username and password to the Swiftreach portal as you may edit your vital information at any time by logging in to the system by visiting <https://swiftreach.com> and then click on “**Customer Login**”.

Lastly, to sign up for “**Nixle**” text message alerts from the Teaneck Police Department, click on the **Nixle** link and you will go to a page with a sample of recently sent message samples. Click the “**Sign Up!**” button in the lower left corner of this window.

## MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Township Public Warning System is complete and fully operational. There are 10 public warning towers in service. In the event of a town-wide emergency, they will be activated to send a warning siren sound, followed by a pre-recorded voice message. The system is also capable of broadcasting a live voice message. Messages that require an evacuation will be preceded by a warbling high-low tone. Messages that require shelter-in-place will be preceded by a wailing siren tone. Any message about utility failures will be preceded by a 'whooping' tone. This system is primarily designed to warn people who are outdoors; however, people indoors will likely be able to hear the tones and can access the voice messages by merely opening a door or window.



## RECEPTION/WARMING & COOLING CENTERS



In the event of a significant emergency, the Township has designated temporary shelters. Residents who need temporary shelter should first call the Teaneck Police Department at **(201) 837-2600** to confirm activation of temporary shelters. The Richard Rodda Community Center, located at 250 Colonial Court, is the official Reception/Warming and Cooling Center for public use. Furthermore, the Township has partnered with the Teaneck Board of Education to open specific schools as temporary shelters during emergencies.

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION HOT LINE

The Township of Teaneck maintains a record emergency information hot line that will repeat messages sent via the public warning system, Nixle and the other township notification channels. To hear these important notifications, please dial **(201) 837-4837**. **DO NOT USE THIS NUMBER TO REPORT EMERGENCIES. IT IS ONLY FOR YOU TO RECEIVE INFORMATION** during town-wide emergencies. To report emergencies any time, including during a town wide emergency, dial 9-1-1 or pull a fire alarm box.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME DATES



Daylight Saving Time will begin on **Sunday, March 12, 2023** and end on **Sunday, November 5, 2023**. Remember that when Daylight Saving Time begins, you set your clock ahead an hour. When it ends, you set your clock back an hour.

### TEANECK HIGH SCHOOL FORUM

#### SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE



If you are looking for reasonable rates and reliable workers, the students at Teaneck High School are available during the winter months to shovel snow for local residents. If you are interested, please call the **FORUM** at: (201) 833-5400 x6283.