

May 11, 2009

# Emergency Response

N.B.: only qualified and trained people can approach the incident!

## General safety precautions:

### Approach cautiously from upwind

- If wind direction allows, consider approaching the incident from uphill
- Resist the urge to rush in; others cannot be helped until the situation has been fully assessed

### Secure the scene

- Without entering the immediate hazard area, isolate the area and assure the safety of people and the environment, keep people away from the scene and outside the safety perimeter
- Allow enough room to move and remove your own equipment

### Identify the hazards

- Placards, container labels, shipping documents, material safety data sheets, Rail Car and Road Trailer Identification Charts, and/or knowledgeable persons on the scene are valuable information sources
- Evaluate all available information (e.g. provided by the shipper or obtained from another authoritative source) to reduce immediate risks
- As more material-specific information becomes available, the response should be tailored to the situation

### Assess the situation

Consider the following:

- Is there a fire, a spill or a leak?
- What are the weather conditions?
- What is the terrain like?
- Who/what is at risk: people, property or the environment?
- What actions should be taken: Is an evacuation necessary? Is diking necessary? What resources (human and equipment) are required and are readily available?
- What can be done immediately?

### Obtain help

- Advise your headquarters to notify responsible agencies and call for assistance from qualified personnel

### Decide on site entry

- Any efforts made to rescue persons, protect property or the environment must be weighed against the possibility that you could become part of the problem
- Enter the area only when wearing appropriate protective gear

### Respond

- Respond in an appropriate manner
- Establish a command post and lines of communication
- Rescue casualties where possible and evacuate if necessary
- Maintain control of the site
- Continually reassess the situation and modify the response accordingly
- The first duty is to consider the safety of people in the immediate area, including your own

### Above all

- Do not walk into or touch spilled material
- Avoid inhalation of fumes, smoke and vapours, even if no dangerous goods are known to be involved
- Do not assume that gases or vapours are harmless because of lack of a smell—odourless gases or vapours may be harmful
- Use **CAUTION** when handling empty containers because they may still present hazards until they are cleaned and purged of all residues.