

MCFRS SPECIAL OPERATIONS: 5-MINUTE DRILL



Resource Hyperlinks

[NTSB Rail Accident Report](#)

[Heavy Rail IRP](#)

[Heavy Rail Access Points](#)

[Rail Google Map](#)

[Rail Liaison Officer Roster](#)



Click Image for Hyperlink Video

February 16 marks the 30th anniversary of the deadliest rail incident in Montgomery County history, an event that claimed the lives of 11 passengers.

Responders were confronted with a two-train collision under severe winter conditions, including snow and temperatures in the 20s. At least one passenger car was fully engulfed in fire, with occupants trapped inside, and access to multiple railcars was extremely limited. Compounding the hazards, additional trains were dispatched to assist but were initially mistaken for incoming trains unaware of the incident, forcing emergency personnel to temporarily evacuate the scene amid concerns for responder safety.

Please review the following questions with your crew:

Are you familiar with the **Rail Incident Response Plan (IRP)** and the **initial actions** for a rail incident?

Are you familiar with the **heavy rail roadway locations** and **access points** in your response area?

Are you familiar with the **hazards associated with locomotives and passenger rail cars**?

Are you familiar with **accessing passenger rail cars**, including emergency entry considerations?

Are you familiar with how to operate as a **Remote Lookout Unit**?

Are you familiar with the **milepost numbering system** along the rail roadway?

Are you familiar with **fire extinguishment options** for trains located in **remote or limited-access areas**?

Are you familiar with **patient triage**, including managing **triage, treatment, and transport** functions during a MCI?

