



# Conestoga-Rovers & Associates Project Summary

## KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

- Emergency Response Activities
- Incident Command
- Site Assessment
- Remediation Activities
- Regulatory Response and Documentation

## BNSF TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE CRAWFORD, TEXAS



CLIENT: BNSF  
DURATION: SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2006  
COST: CONFIDENTIAL

In September 2006, CRA was retained to provide spill response management, regulatory liaison, site assessment, and closure reporting for a twenty-four railcar derailment near downtown Crawford, Texas. Fourteen empty railcars derailed and were in a pileup along the BNSF right-of-way (ROW). Eleven railcars containing a variety of solid and liquid materials derailed, but did not leak. Two railcars released plastic pellets during the derailment and were piled along the BNSF ROW. One railcar containing styrene did not leak during the derailment, but released an estimated 5 to 10 gallons of product into the soil during re-railing activities.

A single railcar, containing an ethanolamine mixture, derailed and resulted in the loss of approximately 22,000 gallons of product. The released material flowed through an existing concrete culvert and through a storm water drainage ditch for approximately 78 feet. Also, some railcars derailed onto a semi-tractor trailer that was parked adjacent to the BNSF ROW. The semi-tractor's diesel fuel tank was compromised releasing approximately 5 to 10 gallons of diesel fuel into the soil along the BNSF ROW.

CRA responded as the main emergency response consultants/contractor and initiated complete Incident Command on behalf of BNSF. The emergency response and remediation objectives for the project included:

- Protection of human health and the environment
- Implementation of a safety program to ensure protection of personnel performing the emergency response tasks
- Collection of 16,740 gallons of ethanolamine mixture with vacuum trucks
- Washing of concrete culverts affected by the ethanolamine mixture and collection of the rinsate
- Coordination of the transportation and disposal of the collected ethanolamine mixture and rinsate
- Excavation of over 2,000 cubic yards of ethanolamine mixture affected soil
- Excavation of approximately 600 cubic yards of diesel fuel affected soil and 325 cubic yards of styrene affected soil
- Coordination of the transportation of diesel fuel affected soil, styrene affected soil, and ethanolamine mixture affected soil to an approved BNSF landfill
- Collection of confirmation soil samples from the diesel fuel, styrene, and ethanolamine mixture excavations
- Conducting activities in accordance with all applicable Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations
- Site restoration activities that consisted of backfilling and grading the site to pre-existing contours and hydro-mulching
- Report documentation of the diesel fuel release area, styrene release area, and the ethanolamine mixture release area

CRA conducted this work in a turnkey project scenario for BNSF. Site work was conducted over a 1½ month timeframe from initial assessment to site restoration.

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