

# **Public Information Coordination for WIPP Transportation Incidents and Accidents**

## **CATEGORY OF INCIDENT**

- Category 1. Truck involved in serious accident -- shipping containers may or may not be damaged. Examples: high-speed collision with another vehicle(s), truck rolls over, crash involving fire.
- Category 2. Shipment disrupted by civil disobedience -- including any of the following: truck delayed or re-routed because of protesters, protesters arrested, truck/trailer damaged by protesters, bomb threat.
- Category 3. Truck involved in minor accident **AND** it is obvious there is no damage to the shipping containers. Examples: truck hits a cow/other wildlife, fender-bender with another vehicle.
- Category 4. Unusual events/incidents that are not covered by the above categories. Examples: a truck safe-parked for an extended period, all shipments halted because of weather or site problem.

## **ACTIONS**

### **Joint Information Center (JIC) Activation**

- Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) will activate the JIC for all Category 1 and 2 incidents. JIC activation is optional for all other incidents.

### **News Releases**

- CBFO will issue a news release within 45 minutes after receiving a report of an incident involving a Category 1 incident, and 120 minutes for Category 2 or 3 incidents. CBFO may issue a news release for a Category 4 incident.

### **News Release Coordination**

- The CBFO news release will be coordinated\* with the following states prior to issuance:
  - X the state in which the event occurred
  - X any adjacent state(s) within 25 miles of the incident
  - X New Mexico

*\* coordination means providing an opportunity to review and comment on the facts contained in the news release*

CBFO will provide 20 minutes for state review.

- CBFO will coordinate any information about activities at the scene with the Incident Commander or their designee. (In the absence of an established Incident Command System at the scene or until contact can be made with the Incident Commander or designee, the JIC should issue news releases and take other appropriate actions in accordance with the guidance in this document.)
- When issued, the news release will be immediately faxed to the following:
  - X the state in which the event occurred
  - X any adjacent state(s) within 25 miles of the incident
  - X New Mexico
  - X the Western Governors' Association (for distribution to all other states)
- If the state in which the incident occurs issues a news release, it will coordinate the news release with CBFO, with any adjacent state within 25 miles of the incident, and with New Mexico. When issued, the news release will be faxed to CBFO and to WGA for distribution to all western states.

### **News Release Distribution**

- The CBFO news release will be provided to news media within 50 miles of the incident and to major media outlets within that state, in any adjacent state within 25 miles of the incident, and in New Mexico. For Category 1 and 2 incidents, the news release will also be distributed to the national media.
- Distribution of state news releases to the news media will be up to the states.

### **Category 4 Notification to States**

- CBFO will provide a "heads-up" notification to states in which unusual activities occur as soon as possible but no later than eight hours of such an event. These are non-emergency events which are sufficiently out of the ordinary that they may draw the interest of the news media or the public. Examples include vehicle breakdown or safe parking for an extended period of time.

Telephone notification will be made to the designated representative of the state in which the incident occurred and to the WGA for distribution to other states.