



# FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE

## BRIDGE EMERGENCIES

### SAFETY CONCERNS

- o Tight clearances and high-speed traffic make both highway and railroad bridges dangerous at all times.
- o Fire conditions may weaken bridge structural components.
- o On highway bridges, there may be considerable delay before traffic flow is fully shut down.
- o Bridges are also a conveyance for high-voltage electrical cables, communication cables, and pipelines.

### PRIORITY ACTIONS

- o **Secure safe working area at scene.**

#### HIGHWAY BRIDGE

- Block traffic with apparatus and request Code 3 law enforcement for traffic control.
- I-5 bridge tender can close all traffic lanes with gates and siren, as well as a PA system for walkways.

#### RAILROAD BRIDGE

- Have CRESA call BNSF trainmaster to stop all train traffic short of bridge.
- o Size up scene before committing crews, giving special attention to slope/grade of highway lanes with respect to apparatus placement and bridge access routes at railroad bridges.
- o Consider environmental risks with spills/leaks near river.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- o BNSF maintains at least one "Nolan" hand-powered rail cart for moving equipment or victims along tracks on railroad bridges. Request this equipment by name through BNSF Yardmaster or Trainmaster.
- o U.S. Coast Guard must be advised of incidents that introduce pollutants into the river or block navigation (including inoperable drawbridge spans and obstructed navigation lanes). Advise through CRESA and request that the



# FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE

- o Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and both Oregon and Washington state environmental authorities be notified as well when spills are involved.

## RESOURCE CONTACT NUMBERS

- o I-5 Bridge Tender .....693-6451  
Radio: ODOT talk-group on 800Mhz system. They do not monitor this channel consistently at present.
- o BNSF Trainmaster .....418-6331 (call first)  
Any BNSF agent can get Amtrak passenger information by radio.
- o BNSF Yardmaster .....418-6332
- o BNSF System Dispatcher.....800-285-2164
- o BNSF Police .....800-832-5452
- o Columbia River Bridge Tender .....418-6320