

Charlotte Rail Hazmat Emergency Response Plan

DRAFT – 10/1/2016

This Emergency Response Plan is intended to assist the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Services, and other agencies should they be called to respond to a rail related hazardous material leak or spill.

The Town of Charlotte Town Plan prohibits the storage of hazardous materials within the railroad right-of-way. In September, 2015 Vermont Rail Systems and Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. Canada applied for a propane storage facility (EPA Identifier 100000230537) for the Charlotte Passing Siding located near 735 Ferry Road. This document is intended to serve as the Emergency Response Plan for that propane storage facility.

The Charlotte Fire and Rescue Services do not recommend or endorse the storage of any hazardous materials in any quantities on the Charlotte Passing Siding, and we have legitimate public safety reasons for taking this position. We are committed to doing whatever we are able to do to protect this community should a hazardous material leak or spill occur.

This plan should also be useful should any other emergency occur related to railroad operations through Charlotte, and it may be adapted to serve other communities with rail lines through them.

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Emergency Response Questionnaire and Log,	
LEOP (Local Emergency Operations Plan)	
Propane Material Data Sheet	
Charlotte Rail Siding Propane Facility Tier Two Inventory	

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Sources: 2012 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), U.S. Dept. of Transportation,
Propane Gas Association of New England, Propane Emergency Response Plan, Jan/1991.

Responding to any Hazmat Incident: Rail (or vehicle) cargo

1. Approach cautiously, if possible up wind and uphill. You and you crew SAFETY is FIRST Priority.
2. Do what you can to secure the scene with the resources you have with you
3. Identify any hazards, hazmat placards, type of cars/containers (box cars, tank cars, how many domes on the involved tank cars), any injured people, any spilled cargo, smoke, vapor cloud, threat of fire, or on fire.
4. Initial Assessment of the situation including:
 - What is the vehicle(s)/container(s), the number and sizes involved in the incident?
 - are people trapped in the wreckage, if so how many, their status?
 - is there a leak, a spill, or a fire?
 - Who/what is at risk – lives, property, the environment?
 - Weather conditions that may be a factor (wind speed/direction, raining, snowing, cold)
 - What actions should be taken:
 - Evacuation?
 - Action to limit product spilling?
 - Other agencies that might be able to help?
 - What can you do right now with the resources you have?
5. **Call for more Help**, have the following information ready:
 - Your name and a call back number
 - Location and description of the situation, crossing ID if you can get it
 - UN number for any hazardous materials involved if you have them
 - Do you have easy and safe access to the cargo manifest?
 - Estimate of the quantity of the material(s) involved, leaking or spilling
 - Local weather conditions, proximity to homes, waterways etc...
 - Injuries or exposures, homes, power stations, power lines, health center etc...
 - If a rail incident contact the **Vermont Railways 24 hour dispatcher at 1-888-265-2735**.

- Other numbers you may need:

VT Emergency Management Operations Center 1-800-347-0488

VT HAZMAT Hotline 1-800-641-5005

VELCO 24 hour Control Room 1-802-770-6261

GMP 24 hour Control Room 1-802-655-8478

CHEMTREC 1-800-424-9300

6. Use extreme caution and all available protective clothing and SCBA to determine if possible what product(s) is involved in this incident. Be prepared to evacuate the area to a safe distance as recommended in the Emergency Response Guide for the situation you are seeing.

7. Start thinking about a safe location for:

- evacuate injured
- evacuate residents – contact Vermont State PD & Chittenden Co. Sheriff's Dept thru Shelburne dispatch or call the Sheriff's Dept at (802) 863-4341 for assistance
- Command Post
- Staging area
- Incident perimeter to be secured

8. Establish a Command Post, staff it with available representatives of the various agencies that are or will assist with the incident. The LEOP (Local Emergency Operations Plan) document will be helpful. See appendix.

9. Get assistance with documents everything you can related to your response to the incident.

- Have a helper start an Incident Log
(Sample Log sheets are in the appendix)

10. Provide only essential public safety information to the media, avoid making any non-essential comments or opinions related to the incident or probable causes.

Response to a Propane Incident: Vehicle or Rail

Size-Up Check List: PPE, full turnout gear, SCBA, 4 gas meter, TIC

Liquid or Vapor leak?

Ignition / no ignition?

Flame impingement?

Other?

Modifying Conditions:

Condition of equipment

Product type and quantity involved

Accident location

Time factor – how long has this been going on

Weather conditions – temp, wind speed, rain, snow

Access

Other?

Potential Loss

Life

Property

Environment

Control Objectives

Rescue victims

Protection of exposures

Hazard containment – is it even possible?

Fire extinguishment

Vapor dispersal by wind, water spray, rain

Additional Resources needed for Evacuation or Control: State HazMat Team, State Emergency Management office, CHEMTREC, Vermont Rail Systems (if a rail incident), Vermont State PD, Chittenden County Sherriff's Dept.

Evidence of a Leak

Visible vapor cloud

Sound of escaping gas or a relief valve lifting

Liquid dripping/pooling

Other?

Spill – NO IGNITION

Rescue victims if safe to do so

Start evacuation with minimum distances in ERG with consideration of weather conditions

Try to eliminate ignition sources

Contain the leak if safe or practical, may not be possible depending on the ERG hazards description.

Ventilate the area if it is safe to do so per the ERG recommendations.

Spill – WITH IGNITION

Rescue if possible

Evacuation of area per ERG recommendations with weather considerations

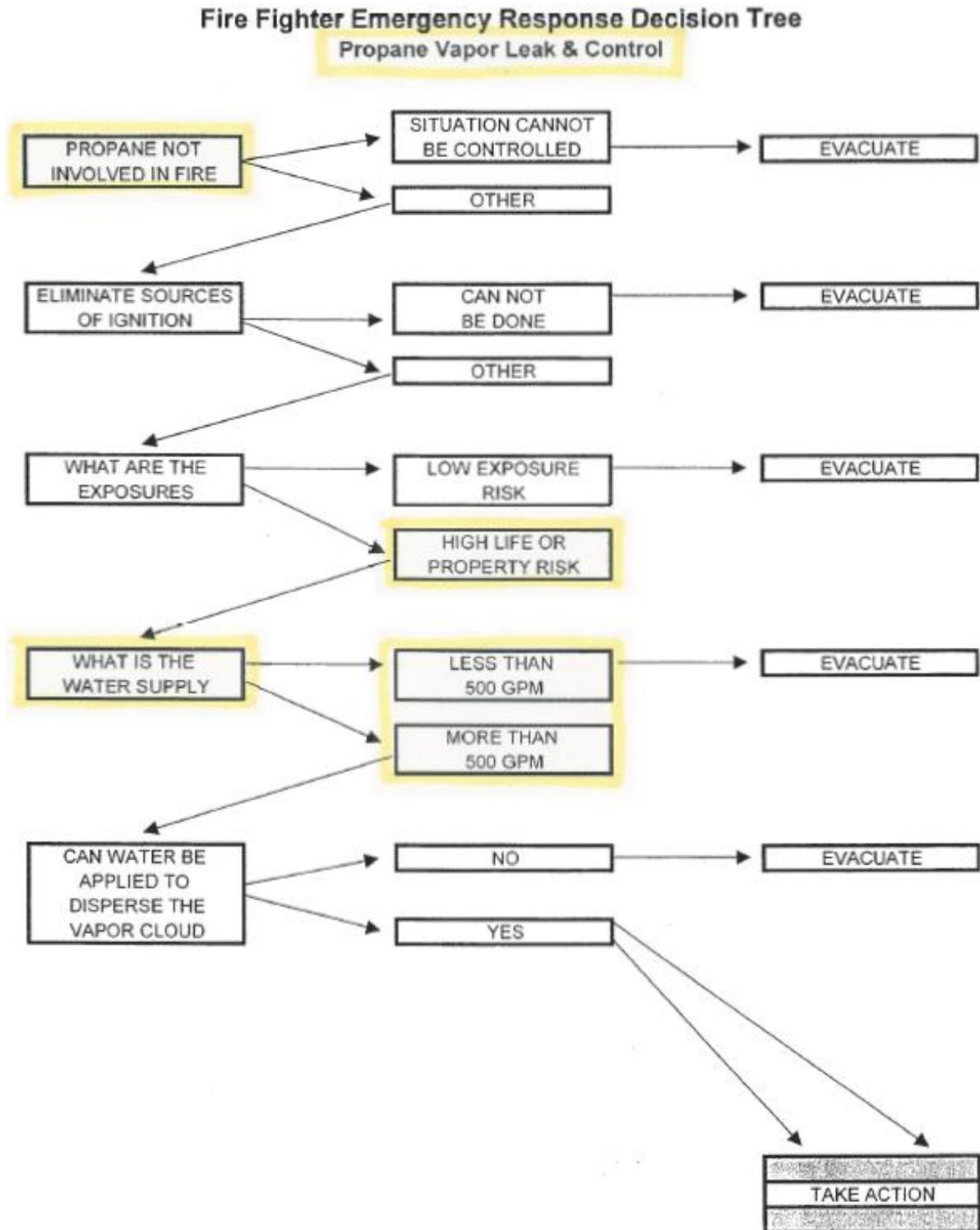
Can you eliminate other combustibles safely?

Is it feasible to control heat/flame

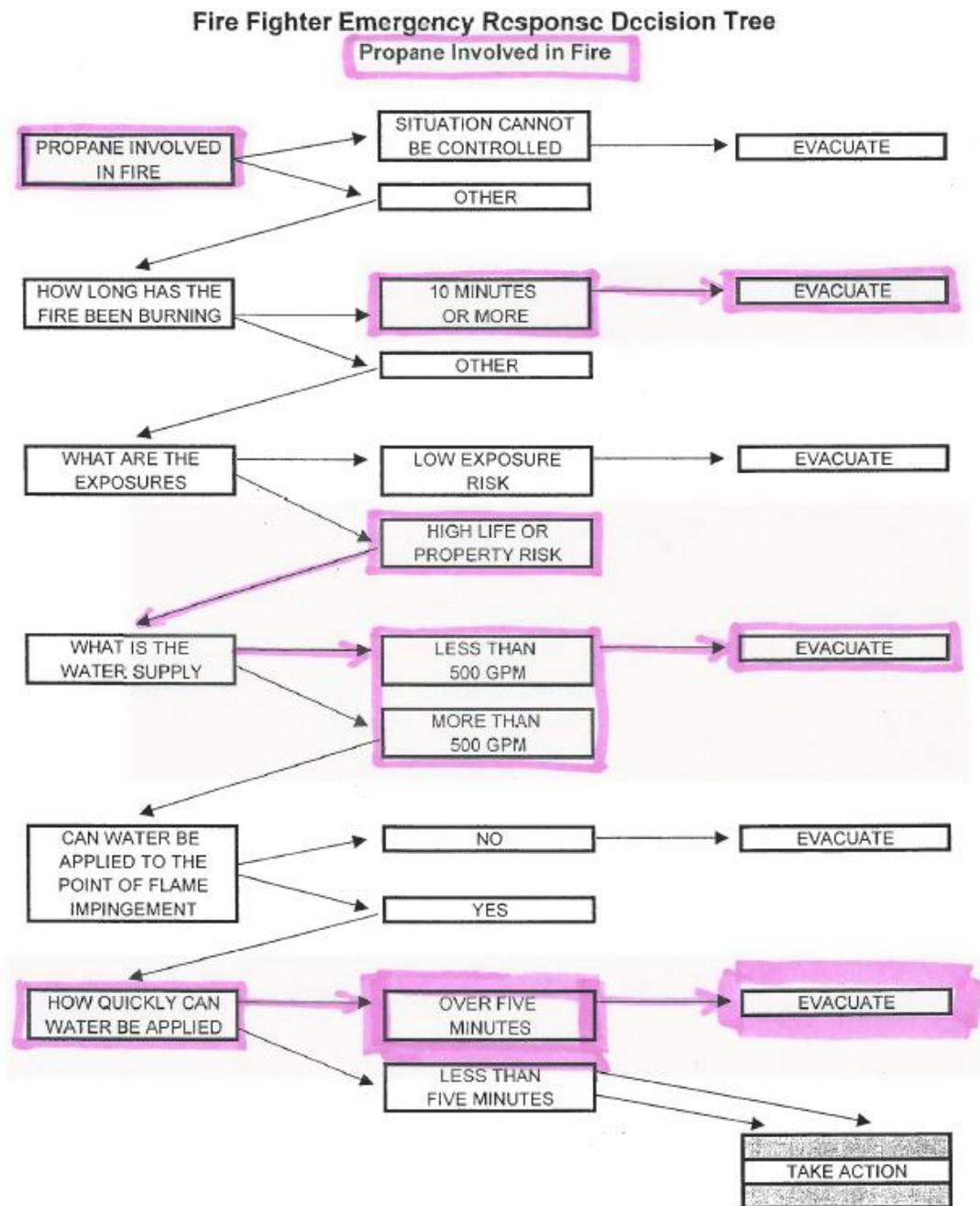
Can you prevent a BLEVE with available resources?

Is it safe to contain this or others hazards?

Propane Incident Response Decision Flowchart – Vapor Leak



Propane Incident Response Decision Flowchart – on Fire



Termination of the incident Check List

1. Assure that all hazards been stabilized

- Leak(s) plugged
- Is the area safe, hazard free?

2. Disposition of the Cargo

- If the equipment is intact and in a safe condition, can it be hauled away?
- If necessary to off load the material, equipment and appropriately trained personnel will be needed at the site
- If the product must be disposed of on site (safely), technical personnel must be provided to perform this operation.
- Liquid must be directed to a safe location and all leak precautions and procedures must be in place.
- Vapor spread shall be continuously monitored and security shall be maintained thru-out the operation.

3. Removal of damaged equipment/containers

- All equipment, trailers, tanks, etc. shall be safely removed using the safest methods available including any of the following equipment:
 - tank trucks
 - flat-bed trailer
 - cranes, high-lift bags

4. Post incident Critique

- Make notes as soon as possible following the termination of the incident of what went well, what did not go so well.
What would you have done differently?
- Hold an incident debrief/critique with as many agencies that participated as possible as soon as possible after the incident.

- **Have someone summarize the comments and use them to modify this plan and other regional response plans.**
- **Share the comments with any agencies that might benefit from your experience.**

APPENDIX A