

Project Description



Description: Railroad Derailment
Site: Lumber Yard
Location: Indiana
Date: 2003

A national railroad company suffered a derailment that included two engines and three freight cars. The large fuel tanks of the engines ruptured and released several thousand gallons of diesel fuel onto the ground.



The diesel fuel flowed into two swales that were located on both sides of the railroad line. A sensitive surface body of water was located near the accident. IES was retained to contain the spill, minimize the risk to the nearby lake, and initiate emergency cleanup of the diesel spill.

The railroad line serviced a large lumberyard that had a railroad spur off the main line. One engine crashed into several lumber storage piles. In order to reach some of the areas of the spill and assist outside personnel in up righting and replacing the engines onto the railroad line, IES mobilized heavy equipment to remove the lumber and temporarily stage it off-site. Concurrent with the handling of the lumber, IES set up containment devices to mitigate the flow of diesel fuel towards the nearby lake.

Vacuum trucks were positioned in key areas along the swales on both sides of the railroad line to remove the diesel fuel that had accumulated in those

areas. The diesel fuel that was pumped from the ground was transferred to bulk storage tank trailers for off-site reclamation.

Upon completion of the initial emergency response activities, IES was retained to assist the railroad company in replacing the damaged railroad spur and main line.

A 50-ton crane was mobilized to the site to place the new sections of the railroad spur and main line. New sections were carefully guided into place by IES personnel under the direct supervision of the railroad company.



Upon obtaining waste approval, IES transported the damaged railroad ties and other debris to an appropriate landfill for disposal.

The final task completed by IES was site restoration that included grading and reestablishing the swales on both sides of the main rail line.