**Hazardous Spill-Railway Collision Significant Event Readiness Forum (SERF) Executive Summary**

The Hazardous Spill-Rail Crash Significant Event Readiness Forum (SERF) was held on November 16, 2023, from 7:30AM to 3:30PM at the Northern Arizona University Conference Center (201 W Butler Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001). A total of 86 individuals attended the SERF. Attendance is displayed on the next page.

There were eight objectives that guided the event.By the end of the SERF, participants were to have an improved understanding of:

1. How public information and warning would be activated and provided.

2. How operational coordination, interoperable communications, situational assessment would be activated and provided.

3. How access control, identity verification, physical protective measures, on-scene security, protection, and law enforcement would be managed.

4. How public health, healthcare, and EMS services would be activated and provided.

5. How risk would be managed.

6. How fatality management would be activated and provided.

7. How mass care services would be activated and provided.

8. How infrastructure systems would be assessed.

Evaluations conducted during the event showed improvements on all objectives as a result of the event.

The following scenario was used to foster discussion among the participants: It is mid-day in downtown Flagstaff in October. Travelers are waiting for AMTRAK at the station, and numerous visitors are at the Visitor’s Bureau. A large vehicle - traveling the wrong way on San Francisco Street - has stopped on the railroad tracks.

BNSF Railway has a westbound train traveling, which is carrying alcohol and Potassium Hydroxide, dry freight, and rocks. The train collides with the vehicle. Rail cars are displaced from the tracks and sent into the Visitor’s Bureau and AMTRAK station. Ten people were critically injured, including four children.

The alcohol and Potassium Hydroxide spill south into the water system as well as the Rio de Flag. The alcohol bursts into flame, causing more property damage and injuries. Rock debris is also flung at the Visitor’s Bureau and surrounding roadways impacting passing vehicles, elevating the property damage and injuries.

The Potassium Hydroxide plume looms over the downtown area and moves north-northeast towards downtown, hospital hill, and McMillan Mesa. The plume impacts citizens, students, and visitors, resulting in widespread immediate and delayed respiratory challenges. Individuals respond by driving/taking transportation to the hospitals and clinics.

The top five considerations derived from the event were the following:

1. Broaden partners involved in disaster discussions and planning.
2. Create a municipal/county/tribal Business Operations Center (BOC) to garner staff support.
3. Work with DPS, Sheriff’s Office, BNSF, Community Colleges, NAU, FBI, and the military as force multipliers.
4. Work with the Mass Casualty Tracking and Reunification Arizona Collaborative (MCTRAC) to explore how to rapidly get resources from the Valley to the hospital, tribal healthcare, and more.
5. Explore the benefits of what such a cache of equipment can offer the region in a disaster.
6. Reconvene meetings of the PIOs and Liaisons. School and hospital liaisons are often needed in EOCs but are often not included considerations.
7. Consider a Family Reunification Center in Flagstaff linked to the OME’s office.
8. Address the continuing issue of limited OME decedent transport with the funeral service companies and others.

As a result of the event, county public health has advanced work on the family reunification center, which accommodates access and functional needs populations.