

TRAIN ACCIDENT

A major train derailment that occurs in a heavily populated industrial area can result in considerable loss of life and property. As a train leaves its track, there is no longer any control as to the direction it will travel. Potential hazards could be overturned rail cars, direct impact into an industrial building, or entering into normal street traffic.

Each of these hazards encompasses many threats, such as a hazardous materials incident, fire, severe damage to either adjacent buildings or vehicles, and loss of life of those on the train or in either adjacent buildings or vehicles and pedestrians.

As commuter rail traffic increases throughout southern California, the potential for serious train accidents increases. On Tuesday, April 23, 2002, about 8:10 a.m. Pacific daylight time, an eastbound Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railway freight train collided head on with a standing westbound Southern California Regional Rail Authority passenger train at Control Point Atwood in Placentia, California. Emergency response agencies reported that 162 persons were transported to local hospitals. There were two fatalities. Damage was estimated at \$4.6 million.

There are a number of ways in which trains can be derailed by terrorists to cause a significant hazardous materials spill, a significant explosion (especially if the train is carrying military ordnance), or simply disrupting normal train schedules. Though not a derailment specifically, the potential exists for terrorists to hijack a train (either passenger or freight) and by disregarding traffic signals on the lines ram the high-jacked train into a standing passenger train at a station. Such an incident would significantly disrupt daily life as described above with the incident in Placentia. Though this incident was an accident, it is an indication of the impacts that could be expected from a deliberate act of terrorism.

There is increasing potential for a railroad disaster and hazardous materials incident or explosions and fires through railroad derailment. The movement of large quantities of hazardous commodities or military ordnance poses a continual threat for a transportation incident that could involve hundreds of people. Rail incidents could occur on or near the Southern Pacific rights-of-way. (See Figure 19 for rail lines through the County)

The NTSB is responsible for the investigation of all railroad accidents and should be notified immediately.

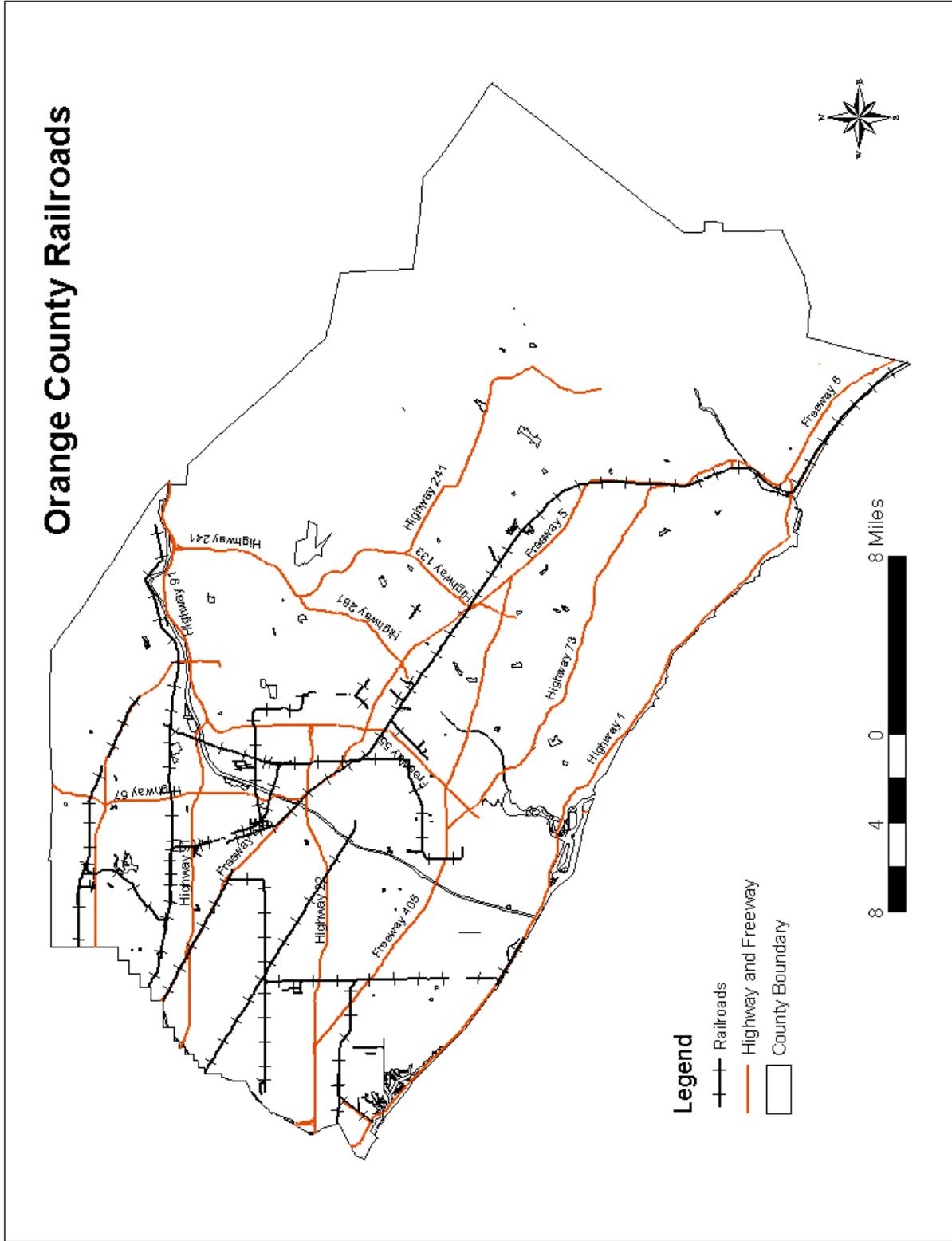


Figure 19 - Map of Rail Lines in Orange County

