



## Railroad Accident Report Derailment of CN Freight Train U70691-18 With Subsequent Hazardous Materials Release and Fire Cherry Valley, Illinois June 19, 2009

By National Transportation Safety Board

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8: 36 p. m. , central daylight time, on Friday, June 19, 2009,

eastbound Canadian National Railway Company freight train

U70691-18, traveling at 36 mph, derailed at a highwayrail

grade crossing in Cherry Valley, Illinois. The train consisted of 2

locomotives and 114 cars, 19 of which derailed. All of the

derailed cars were tank cars carrying denatured fuel ethanol, a

flammable liquid. Thirteen of the derailed tank cars were

breached or lost product and caught fire. At the time of the

derailment, several motor vehicles were stopped on either side

of the grade crossing waiting for the train to pass. As a result

of the fire that erupted after the derailment, a passenger in one

of the stopped cars was fatally injured, two passengers in the

same car received serious injuries, and five occupants of other

cars waiting at the highwayrail crossing were injured. Two

responding firefighters also sustained minor injuries. The

release of ethanol and the resulting fire prompted a

mandatory evacuation of about 600 residences within a 12-

mile radius of the accident site. Monetary...



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