August 3, 2010 / For Immediate Release

CP Train Derailment; Airdrie, Alberta – UPDATE 4:45pm

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Specialist crews are on site and are developing plans to safely remove the product from the rail cars. Emergency crews remain on scene and are monitoring the air quality in the area. Crews expect to remain on scene over the next few days as the clean up continues. If you are in the area and experience breathing problems, immediately move to fresh air and call 911 for medical service.

Municipal officials have initiated the Municipal Emergency Plan and activated the EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) and are currently developing strategies to safely deal with the event. Stay tuned to airdire.ca and your local media for updates.

Just after 7:00 am this morning, a southbound CP train derailed approximately 1.5 km north of Airdrie; south of township road 274 and north of Veterans Blvd.. Thirty cars have derailed, some having sustained heavy damage. No injuries have been reported. Eight cars containing anhydrous ammonia (anhydrous ammonia is a common agricultural fertilizer/household cleaner) are confirmed to be involved, as are grain cars and some plastic materials. It has been confirmed there are no chemicals leaking, still every precaution is being taken to protect the safety of the surrounding community and responders at the site.

Calgary HAZMAT, Airdrie Fire Department and CP environmental experts are on the scene assessing the site.

A quarter mile radius around the site has been evacuated, including 3 farms. No other evacuations or evacuation alerts are in place at this time, including none for the City of Airdrie. Roads are closed surrounding the site, please avoid the area and take alternate routes. Investigation is currently underway, a cause has not been determined at this time.

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