

SSI Item 33: Excessive Wind Instructions

January 20, 2022

When wind warnings are received meeting the wind speed criteria, the train dispatcher will make a general radio broadcast regarding the **High Wind Warning** over the radio(s) nearest the affected area and then will notify all affected trains and employees with movement authority providing time and limits of the expected high winds. The term "until traversed" may be used in place of communicating the expiration time of the warning when notifying trains and MW authority holders of wind warnings. Until traversed means the rear of the train is clear of the limits.

Questions for Discussion

- ❑ **I just received a High Wind Warning. Based on the given wind speed and using the table within SSI 33, my train must traverse or enter the limits utilizing "Staging requirements." How must I proceed?**

Affected trains and equipment may proceed not exceeding 20 mph to a staging location (e.g., station, siding or location with double crossovers) as directed by the train dispatcher to allow trains not affected by the wind warning to pass.

- ❑ **Does the requirement to proceed at 20 mph to a staging location, indicated by the train dispatcher, only apply within the wind warning limits?**

Yes. If your train, based on the chart in SSI 33, qualifies for "Staging requirements", you may proceed not exceeding 20 mph until clear of the limits. In addition, this is pending notification from the train dispatcher of a staging location which may or may not occur depending on operating conditions and status of other trains traversing the limits not affected by the wind warning as to allow these trains to pass.

- ❑ **What are the requirements for trains handling cars with two empty containers stacked on top of one another (as indicated on train list) when notified of wind speeds 51 mph or greater and operating within or entering the High Wind Warning limits?**

If within the limits, stop until directed otherwise by the train dispatcher. In addition, if not within the limits of the wind warning, trains must stop short and are not allowed to enter the limits unless otherwise directed by the train dispatcher.

- ❑ **May a train be relieved of wind warning requirements if a field employee reports that the wind is not as severe as indicated?**

If a local wind monitoring device (tower mounted anemometer) or local field employee (e.g., crew member on an affected train or other railroad employee equipped with a wind measuring device) observes that local weather conditions are not as severe as the wind warning indicated and these conditions would not impact safety, the employee will advise the train dispatcher of the local conditions. If the employee advises local wind conditions are 50 mph or less, with chief dispatcher authority the train dispatcher may grant permission for passenger trains restricted to 40 mph and other affected trains to operate at maximum authorized speed. Crew members are required to continue to monitor conditions within the active High Wind Warning, reporting and/or reverting to the SSI 33 table that governs train movement if conditions change.

- ❑ **How can observations of local wind conditions be made?**

Observations of local wind conditions can be made by a crew member on an affected train, railroad employee in the field at location of warning equipped with a wind monitoring device (anemometer), local tower mounted wind monitoring device (anemometer) or by utilizing BNSF Railway WIND App.

- ❑ **May a train qualifying for "Staging requirements" continue to move within the limits of a High Wind Warning while awaiting directions from the dispatcher?**

Yes. Affected trains and equipment meeting the specifications for "Staging requirements" may proceed, not exceeding 20 mph, pending notification of a staging location as directed by the train dispatcher to allow trains not affected by the wind warning to pass.

- ❑ **Must a train that qualifies for "Staging requirements" stop short of a potential staging location when operating within the limits of a High Wind Warning and awaiting directions from the dispatcher?**

No. Trains governed by "Staging requirements" movement may continue to move through the limits of the High Wind Warning not exceeding 20 mph pending notification of staging location as directed by the train dispatcher.