A CLOUD OF DEVASTATION

The tiny community of Graniteville was unprepared for what happened that night.

The crash ruptures a tanker car carrying 90 tons of deadly chlorine gas. The crash also topples a tree onto a car stopped at the railroad crossing, trapping an inside.

Two and a half hours later than the crash site, workers in the same room died from exposure to the gas.

A Nutritionist might have found the crash that took the lives of nine people and injured 550.

Here is what happened:

PRELUDE TO TRAGEDY

The train's conductor survived.

Brenda Montgomery, who had driven to the wreck the banks of Horse Creek, which the chlorine had turned to hydrochloric acid. Workers at the Avondale Mills buildings nearest the crash site.

The tiny community of Graniteville was unprepared for what happened that night.

Marvin Bass, 28, of West Columbia, was helped from the wreckage by the Graniteville Fire Dept. He had his inhaler with him and immediately used it.

The Granbyville facility was closed because of the chlorine leak. The creek's water turns blue.

The engineer of the moving train, who had driven to the wreck, was helped from the wreckage by the Graniteville Fire Dept. He had his inhaler with him and immediately used it.

THE VICTIMS

Eight of the nine people who died from exposure to the gas were in areas geographically lower than the crash site.

1. Willie C. Shively, 41, of Aiken, died.
2. Tony Deloach, 56, of Graniteville, was confined to a wheelchair and died in his home.
3. Fred Goodspeed, 57, of Aiken, died.
4. Steven Raggs, 38, of Aiken, died.
5. Trisun, 58, of Graniteville, died.
6. Tony Deloach, 56, of Graniteville, was confined to a wheelchair and died in his home.
7. Fred Goodspeed, 57, of Aiken, died.
8. Tony Deloach, 56, of Graniteville, was confined to a wheelchair and died in his home.
9. Fred Goodspeed, 57, of Aiken, died.

THE AFTERMATH

A by-the-numbers look at the effects of the crash.

550: Number of people exposed to the chlorine gas, seeking medical assistance in Aiken and other nearby towns.
240: Number of patients admitted to Aiken and Augusta area hospitals as a result of exposure to the chlorine gas.
5,400: Number of people evacuated for a week or longer from a one-mile radius around the crash site.

AVOIDING DISASTER

Experts outline three steps doctors better educate people against similar disasters.

1. Better emergency response training for professionals.
2. Better hazardous materials training for volunteer firefighters.
3. Slower train speeds through towns.
4. Automatic, computerized switches that the switch is set to the main line and it is safe to pass.
5. Better emergency response training for professionals.
6. Automatic, computerized switches that the switch is set to the main line and it is safe to pass.
8. Automatic, computerized switches that the switch is set to the main line and it is safe to pass.
10. Automatic, computerized switches that the switch is set to the main line and it is safe to pass.

THE STATE

BY JEFF WILKINSON/STAFF WRITER

At 2:39 a.m. on Jan. 6, two trains collide near the Avondale Mills plant in downtown Graniteville. The crash results in a chlorine leak that kills nine people and injures 550.