



CASE STUDY



HULCHER RESPONDS TO RAILROAD'S TORNADO DAMAGE

Scope

Following a series of devastating tornados, one railroad found that nine miles of its track were buried in debris. A local neighborhood and large forest were torn apart by the storms, resulting in wreckage on the tracks as high as 20 feet. This debris made it impossible for rail crews to reach a badly damaged trestle bridge on this stretch. The railroad needed an experienced disaster response contractor to clear the track while coordinating with local emergency officials and the area's residents.

Solution

Hulcher Services deployed four Caterpillar® 325 excavators and a Caterpillar® 977 track loader. The excavators attacked the debris from multiple directions to create access to both ends of the bridge. The track loader cleared and graded a 300-meter stretch along the right-of-way, creating a road to provide access to downed utility lines. The track loader also graded out parking lots for the railroad to park their trailers close to the bridge.

Hulcher crews leveraged their disaster response expertise to coordinate with emergency officials and keep their work running smoothly and safely. Hulcher also displayed great sensitivity to the local community; on several occasions, with consent from the railroad, crews stopped their work to move large pieces of buildings for residents who were searching for personal possessions.

Outcome

Hulcher crews cleared the track in less than four days, providing access to the bridge from the east and west. The new road and parking lots allowed work to begin on the bridge and downed power lines. The railroad appreciated the fact that Hulcher's experienced crews needed little supervision so they could focus their attention on other aspects of the disaster clean-up.

Hulcher's crews improved the situation not only for the railroad, but for the community. Their compassionate support for officials and local citizens helped the people in this area begin the process of rebuilding their lives.



KEY FACTS

PROJECT SUMMARY: Clear debris from nine miles of track; build road and parking areas for rail crews.

EXPERIENCED DISASTER RESPONSE: Crews worked seamlessly with local officials to clear the track, open access to a damaged bridge and help local residents.

FAST, PROFESSIONAL RESPONSE: Track cleared and roads / parking lots built in less than four days.

