



## Section 5. Risk Assessment

### 5.14 Civil Unrest

For the 2014 Plan update, this hazard profile and vulnerability assessment was significantly enhanced to reflect updated, best-available data, as well as to provide additional information that can be used by both the State agencies in developing mitigation strategies, and by the local jurisdictions as they develop their mitigation plans according to the appropriate level of threat. Additionally, this section includes updated and detailed information about past occurrences of civil unrest incidents and updated information regarding the exposure and vulnerability for New Jersey communities.

#### 5.14.1 Profile

##### Hazard Description

Civil disturbance is a broad term that is typically used by law enforcement to describe one or more forms of disturbance caused by a group of people. Civil disturbance is typically a symptom of, and a form of protest against, major socio-political problems. Typically, the severity of the action coincides with the level of public outrage. In addition to a form of protest against major socio-political problems, civil disturbances can also arise out of union protest, institutional population uprising, or from large celebrations that become disorderly.

Civil disturbances can take the form of small gatherings or large groups blocking or impeding access to a building, or disrupting normal activities by generating noise and intimidating people. Demonstrations can range from a peaceful sit-in to a full-scale riot, in which a mob burns or otherwise destroys property and terrorizes individuals. Even in its more passive forms, a group that blocks roadways, sidewalks, or buildings interferes with public order. Often protests intended to be a peaceful demonstration to the public and the government can escalate into general chaos.

There are two types of large gatherings typically associated with civil disturbances: a crowd and a mob. A crowd may be defined as a casual, temporary collection of people without a strong, cohesive relationship. Crowds can be classified into the following four categories (Blumer 1946):

- **Casual Crowd:** A casual crowd is a group of people who happen to be in the same place at the same time. Violent conduct does not occur.
- **Cohesive Crowd:** A cohesive crowd consists of members who are involved in some type of unified behavior. Members of this group are involved in some type of common activity, such as worshipping, dancing, or watching a sporting event. Members of these crowds may have intense internal discipline, and require substantial provocation to arouse to action.
- **Expressive Crowd:** An expressive crowd is one held together by a common commitment or purpose. They may not be formally organized, and are assembled as an expression of common sentiment or frustration. Members wish to be seen as a formidable influence. One of the best examples of this type is a group assembled to protest.
- **Aggressive Crowd:** An aggressive crowd is composed of individuals who have assembled for a specific purpose. This crowd often has leaders who attempt to arouse the members or motivate them to action. Members are noisy and threatening and will taunt authorities. They may be more impulsive and emotional, and require only minimal stimulation to arouse violence. Examples of this type of crowd could include demonstrators and strikers, though not all demonstrators and strikers are aggressive.



A mob can be defined as a large disorderly crowd or throng. Mobs are usually emotional, loud, tumultuous, violent, and lawless. Similar to crowds, mobs have different levels of commitment, and can be classified into the following four categories (Alvarez and Bachman 2007):

- **Aggressive Mob:** An aggressive mob is one that attacks, riots, and terrorizes. The object of violence may be a person, property, or both. An aggressive mob is distinguished from an aggressive crowd only by lawless activity. Examples of aggressive mobs are the inmate mobs in prisons and jails, mobs that act out their frustrations after political defeat, or violent mobs at political protests or rallies.
- **Escape Mob:** An escape mob is attempting to flee from something such as a fire, bomb, flood, or other catastrophe. Members of escape mobs are generally difficult to control and can be characterized by unreasoning terror.
- **Acquisitive Mob:** An acquisitive mob is one motivated by a desire to acquire something. Riots caused by other factors often turn into looting sprees. This mob exploits an authority's lack of control in safeguarding property.
- **Expressive Mob:** An expressive mob is one that expresses fervor or revelry following some sporting event, religious activity, or celebration. Members experience a release of pent up emotions in highly charged situations.

Civil unrest and disturbances affect the following factions of society:

- **The Public:** The general population could serve as participants or targets in actions of civil unrest. Wide spread unrest could cause fear amongst the populace and cause them to be absent from school or work activities. During an event, bystanders may be harmed because of the activities of participants.
- **Responders:** Responses to civil unrest events are generally handled at the local level. In a large event, the resources of a local jurisdiction may be exceeded. In this instance, State resources would be activated to fill the need. During an event responders may become targets, which could hamper their effectiveness.
- **Continuity Of Operations, including delivery of services:** The outbreak of widespread rioting or looting could have potential impact on the State's ability to provide services and conduct its normal operations. Protesters could occupy government buildings and interrupt the normal functions of government, or targeted attacks on government facilities could interrupt operations entirely.
- **Property:** Private property often serves as a target in instances of civil unrest. Businesses can be targeted for looting or vandalism. If an event is particularly large, damage could reach millions of dollars and recovery could take years.
- **Facilities:** Often in acts of civil unrest government facilities become the focal point of protests or targets for vandalism. Damage suffered during an event or the inability of a worker to enter a facility may greatly reduce a facility's effective capacity or close it completely.
- **Infrastructure:** Similar to government facilities, public and private infrastructure can become targets of civil unrest. Damage to transportation, communications, or utilities infrastructure could further exacerbate the situation.
- **Environment:** Normally, instance of civil unrest will have a minimal impact on the environment. However, if petroleum or other chemical facilities were a target for vandalism or large-scale fires occurred, the impact on the environment could be significant.
- **Economic Condition of the State:** Civil unrest could prove economically crippling to the State of New Jersey. Large-scale events are usually accompanied by wide-spread absenteeism and damage to private property.



- **Public Confidence in the State's Governance:** If an event becomes prolonged or is perceived to be mismanaged, it could greatly decrease public confidence in the governance of the State. If the response is seen to be inadequate, individuals may attempt to protect their property by their own means and further degrade the situation.

### Location

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Government facilities, landmarks, prisons, and universities are common sites where crowds and mobs may gather. The concentration of buildings in and density of northeastern New Jersey, and State government buildings in Trenton may be targets of civil disturbance. New Jersey also has correctional facilities, treatment units, and youth development centers, as well as federal prison facilities and local and private facilities throughout the State that may be targets for civil unrest.

### Extent

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The magnitude or severity of a civil unrest situation coincides with the level of public outrage. They can take the form of small gatherings or large groups blocking access to buildings, or disrupting normal activities. Civil unrest situations can also be peaceful sit-ins or a full scale riot.

### Previous Occurrences and Losses

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#### 1913 Paterson Silk Strike

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A significant civil disorder incident occurred during a six-month long strike that involved silk mill workers in Paterson, New Jersey. The strike began on March 3, 1913. During the course of the strike, approximately 1,850 strikers were arrested. Ultimately, the strike ended in failure on July 8, 1913. Scholars cite an important reason for this failure as Paterson's necessary adaptation to the new machinery and new economics of the silk industry. Manufacturers would not acquiesce to the demands of strikers because they simply could not. Without producing goods at competitive prices through new machinery and cheap labor, they would be put out of business by firms in other states.

#### 1967 Newark Riots

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The worst civil disturbance incident to occur in New Jersey happened in 1967 in Newark. The event was fueled by police brutality, political exclusion of African Americans, urban renewal, inadequate housing, unemployment, and poverty.

In an article published by Rutgers University, the Newark Riot of 1967 began with the arrest of a cab driver named John Smith, who allegedly drove around a double-parked police car at the corner of 7th Street and 15th Avenue. He was subsequently stopped, interrogated, arrested, and transported to the 4th precinct headquarters. During that time, he was severely beaten by the arresting officers. As news of the arrest spread, a crowd began to assemble in front of the precinct house, located directly across from a high-rise public housing project. When the police allowed a small group of civil rights leaders to visit the prisoner, they demanded that Mr. Smith be taken to a hospital. Emerging from the building, these civil rights leaders begged the crowd to stay calm, but were shouted down. Rumor spread that John Smith had died in police custody, despite the fact he had been taken out the back entrance and transported to a local hospital. Soon a volley of bricks and bottles was launched at the precinct house and police stormed out to confront the assembly. As the crowd dispersed, they began to break into stores on the nearby commercial thoroughfares. Eventually, violence spread from the predominantly black neighborhoods of Newark's Central Ward to Downtown Newark, and the New Jersey State Police were mobilized. Within 48 hours, National Guard troops entered the city. With the arrival of these



troops, the level of violence intensified. At the conclusion of 6 days of rioting, 26 people were dead; an estimated 725 people were injured, and close to 1,500 people had been arrested.

**Other Disturbances**

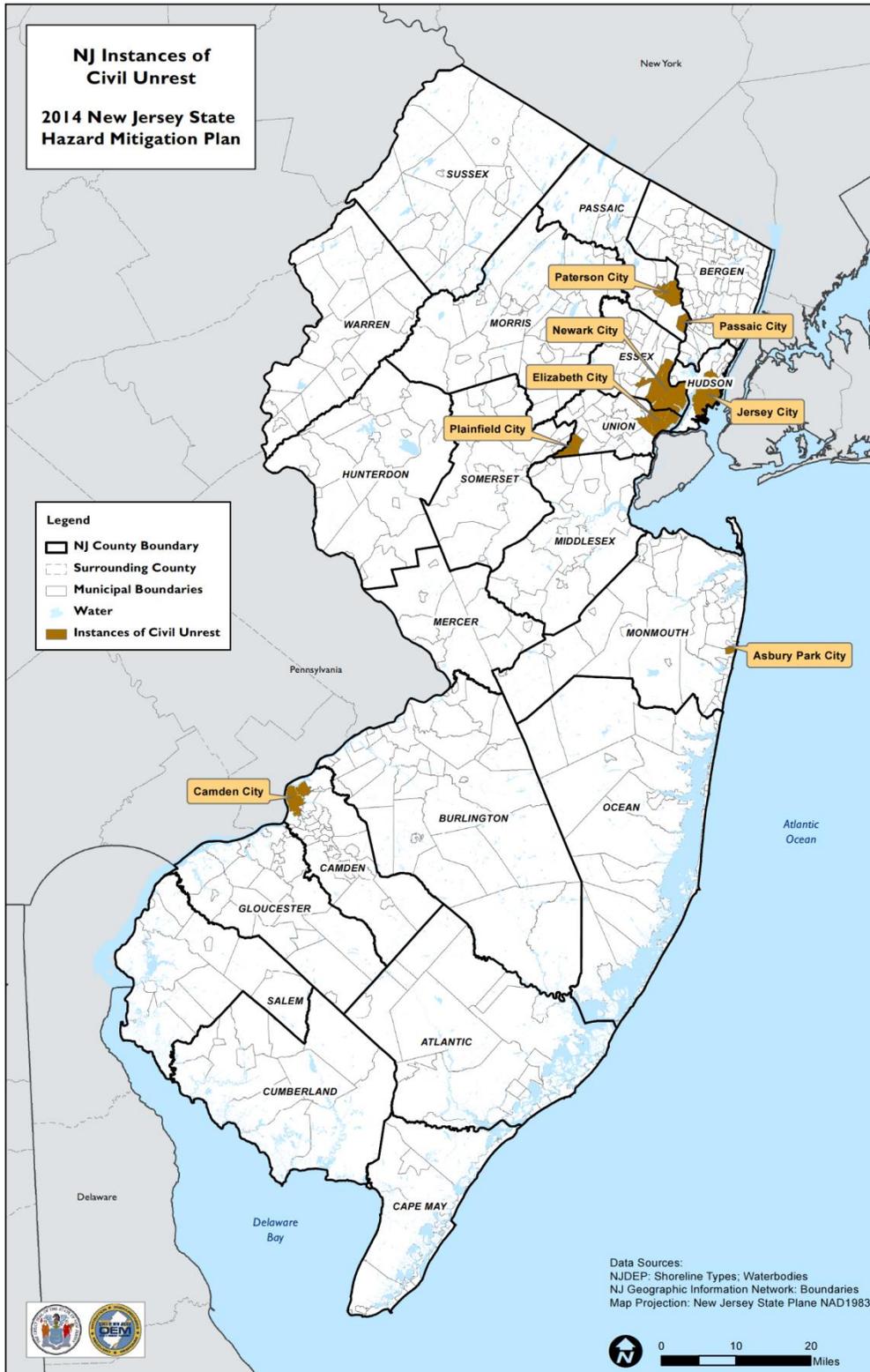
Table 5.14-1 outlines Paterson, Newark, and other civil disturbances affecting New Jersey. Figure 5.14-1 shows the geographic locations of the previous instances of civil unrest. FEMA has made no presidential disaster declarations related to civil unrest.

**Table 5.14-1. Civil Unrest Incidents in New Jersey**

Date(s) of Event	Disturbance Name	Description
February 1 to July 28, 1913	Paterson Silk Strike	The 1913 Paterson silk strike was a work stoppage involving silk mill workers in Paterson, New Jersey. The strike involved demands for establishment of an eight-hour day and improved working conditions.
August 2-4, 1964	Jersey City Race Riot	From August 2 to 4, 1964, Jersey City, New Jersey, was the site of one of the first race riots to occur after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The New York Times reported that the race riot in Jersey City was instigated by the arrest of a black woman on a disorderly conduct charge. Initial estimates attributed the demonstrations of the first night to some 800 African Americans who were looting, throwing rocks and stones at cars, and attempting to pull people out of the cars.
August 11-13, 1964	Paterson Riots	No description available
August 11 to August 13, 1964	Elizabeth Riots	No description available
July 12-17, 1967	Newark Riots	The 1967 Newark riots were a major civil disturbance that occurred in the city of Newark, New Jersey between July 12 and July 17, 1967. The 6 days of rioting, looting, and destruction left 26 dead and hundreds injured.
July 14-21, 1967	Plainfield Riots	The Plainfield Riots were a series of racially charged violent disturbances that occurred in Plainfield, New Jersey during the summer of 1967, which mirrored the 1967 Newark riots in nearby Newark, New Jersey.
August 3, 1969	Passaic Disorder	No description available
July 9, 1970	Asbury Park Riots	The riot was caused by several black teenagers who apparently were unable to secure summer jobs in Asbury Park. The trouble started when a group of young people started breaking some windows after a youth dance at the West Side Community Center on the night of July 4. The violence increased in intensity and scope over the course of the next 7 nights. While extensive and far reaching, the rioting and damage was essentially limited to the major entertainment, business, and retail district of the Springwood Avenue, on the west side of Main Street. Before it was all over, there would be over \$4 million in property damage, 167 arrests, 165 injured, 15 police injured, and countless numbers of families made homeless.
August 1971	Camden Riots	Sections of downtown Camden were looted and torched after racial riots occurred following the beating and death of a Puerto Rican motorist by city police in August 1971.



Figure 5.14-1. Instances of Civil Unrest in New Jersey





### Probability of Future Occurrences

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While the probability of future civil unrest incidents is difficult to predict, given past occurrences and significance of New Jersey and its communities, civil unrest incidents are possible. As discussed in the Location section above, areas that are important to the State, region, and greater United States may be targets for civil unrest. These areas include universities, landmarks, correctional facilities, major industrial facilities, and others similar in nature. It is also worth noting that while the last major civil disturbance in New Jersey occurred in the 1970s, it is still possible for a future event to occur. Societal trends and emerging social issues should be watched closely as these types of issues have led to instances in the past.

### Severity

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Civil unrest and civil disturbances can range from minor to significant events that can disrupt the functioning of a community for weeks or months. A worst case-scenario for a civil disturbance would be an incident that takes place in a large urban environment and lasts for an extended period of time. An example of a worst-case scenario was the 1967 Newark Race Riots, which significantly impacted the City and led to numerous fatalities and injuries.

Civil unrest and riots can be much worse than the 1967 Newark incident. The worst riot to occur in the United States took place in Los Angeles in 1992. The riot was first started in South Los Angeles and then eventually spread out into other areas over a 6-day period within the Los Angeles metropolitan area in California in April 1992. The riots started on April 29 after a trial jury acquitted four Los Angeles Police Department officers of assault and use of excessive force. The mostly white officers were videotaped beating an African-American named Rodney King following a high-speed police pursuit. Thousands of people throughout the metropolitan area in Los Angeles rioted over 6 days following the announcement of the verdict (Clark 1992).

Widespread looting, assault, arson, and murder occurred during the riots, and estimates of property damage topped \$1 billion. The rioting ended after soldiers from the California Army National Guard, along with U.S. Marines from Camp Pendleton were called in to stop the rioting after the local police could not handle the situation. In total, 53 people were killed during the riots and over 2,000 people were injured (Wilson 2012)

### Warning Time

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Civil disturbances often occur with little to no warning; however, certain events may trigger riots. As demonstrated in the Past Occurrences and Losses section and discussions regarding severity, riots can occur as a result of controversial court rulings, unfair working conditions, or general unrest. Riots can also be triggered as a result of favorable or unfavorable sports outcomes. Thus, generally there will be a certain degree of warning time that a riot may occur; however, achieving certainty that an incident is imminent is not possible.

### Secondary Hazards

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Civil unrest can result in numerous secondary hazards. Depending on the size and scope of the incident, civil unrest may lead to widespread urban fire, utility failure, transportation interruption, and environmental hazards. The most significant impact of civil unrest is the secondary hazard of interruption of continuity of government, which can also lead to several of the aforementioned secondary hazards. The extent of secondary hazards will vary significantly based on the extent and nature of the civil unrest.

### Climate Change Impacts

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Because civil unrest is a short-term, human-caused hazard, no climate change impacts are associated with the hazard.



### 5.14.2 Vulnerability Assessment

The following discusses New Jersey’s vulnerability, in a qualitative nature, to the civil unrest hazard. A consequence analysis for this hazard was also conducted and presented in Section 9. Impacts on the public, responders, continuity of operations, and delivery of services; property, facilities, and infrastructure; the environment, economic condition of the State, and the public confidence in the State’s governance is discussed in Section 9 in accordance with Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standards. This section addresses assessing vulnerability and estimating potential losses by jurisdiction and to State facilities.

#### Assessing Vulnerability by Jurisdiction

For the purposes of measuring exposure, the entire population of the State is exposed to the civil unrest hazard. Those that live in densely populated areas, those living near colleges/universities, correctional facilities, landmarks, and other areas of significance may have a higher exposure and are thus more vulnerable to the effects of civil unrest. Figure 4-8 in Section 4 illustrates the population density of New Jersey.

A review of the historic record indicates Camden, Essex, Hudson, Monmouth, Passaic, and Union Counties have been targets of civil disturbance (shown on Figure 5.14-1 presented in this profile). Almost all of the major instances of civil unrest took place in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These types of instances were common throughout the United States during this specific time period. There is also an evident correlation the instances of civil unrest and higher population density in larger cities, as was the case for almost all of the places where these instances took place.

Based on the previous occurrences of instances of civil unrest, larger more densely populated cities with culturally diverse populations tend to be more vulnerable to this hazard. Because it is evident that societal trends and emerging social issues have led to these types of instances in the past, cities with a high amount cultural diversity within the population may be subject to civil unrest in the future.

#### Assessing Vulnerability to State Facilities

State-owned facilities are often targets of civil disturbances, and thus are vulnerable to the effects of these incidents. These facilities may become the focus of civil disturbances depending on the causes of the disturbance. Table 5.14-2 presents the number of State-owned and leased facilities per county in the State.

Table 5.14-2. Facilities Exposed to Civil Unrest

County	College/ University *	Correctional Facility	State Facilities	RCV of State Buildings
Atlantic	2	0	87	\$179,706,575
Bergen	4	1	46	\$120,718,535
Burlington	1	2	345	\$511,632,798
Camden	3	2	70	\$322,934,305
Cape May	0	0	114	\$66,296,896
Cumberland	1	6	367	\$468,488,615
Essex	12	2	74	\$359,458,236
Gloucester	2	0	46	\$38,405,893
Hudson	5	2	22	\$83,248,446
Hunterdon	0	3	333	\$235,606,030
Mercer	6	3	390	\$1,791,970,332



County	College/ University *	Correctional Facility	State Facilities	RCV of State Buildings
Middlesex	7	4	264	\$382,377,843
Monmouth	3	1	163	\$125,372,346
Morris	6	1	103	\$230,111,656
Ocean	3	0	103	\$87,151,813
Passaic	3	0	71	\$155,785,880
Salem	1	1	56	\$29,246,425
Somerset	2	1	38	\$116,979,899
Sussex	1	0	63	\$25,858,102
Union	2	1	35	\$42,909,858
Warren	2	1	120	\$55,241,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>\$5,429,501,828</b>

\* Includes all colleges including private colleges.

Particularly vulnerable is the City of Trenton in Mercer County, given its concentration of State buildings and its role as the capital of the State. These facilities are vulnerable and may be damaged or destroyed depending on the nature of the disturbance. Additionally, buildings at State-owned colleges and universities are vulnerable to civil unrest, such as the Rutgers University Campus.

Like State facilities, critical facilities may be targets for civil unrest disturbances. Refer to Table 5.1-2 in Section 5.1, which summarizes the number of critical facilities by County in New Jersey. Bergen County has the greatest number of critical facilities, and thus is the most vulnerable to civil unrest incidents. Disruptions to critical facilities may have cascading secondary effects such as power outages and utility failure. Because these facilities are vulnerable to civil unrest and, like State-owned facilities, may be a focal point during a protest, these facilities will need to be protected during incidents.

### Estimating Potential Losses by Jurisdiction

Measuring the economic impact of civil unrest in the State is a difficult task. Elements that contribute to this are the volatility of the nature of civil disturbances, and the uncertainty of the duration of an incident. The local and State economies may be affected by a civil disturbance, as was the case during the Asbury Park Riots, which targeted the business sector in the community during the peak of tourist season. For the purposes of this assessment, the entire New Jersey economy is considered exposed to the effects of civil disturbances.

Should a large-scale civil unrest incident occur, the economy of New Jersey will be affected and is therefore vulnerable. For example, a prolonged strike will affect production and tax revenues in the State. Also, if a widespread riot occurred it would interrupt daily commerce, thus affecting the economy. While these are only two examples, it is clear that a civil unrest incident will affect the economy.

The limited number of instances of civil unrests within the State has only shown one clear and consistent similarity, which is that each instance occurred in large, densely populated cities. However as indicated above, the causes of civil unrest are too dynamic and too inconsistent to quantify in a meaningful manner.

### Estimating Potential Losses to State Facilities

New Jersey has one of the most culturally diverse and dynamic populations in the United States. As the State continues to develop, there will always be cultural and societal shifts both geographically as well as socially. It



is difficult to quantify the potential losses to State facilities because of the unpredictability of civil disturbances and their duration. The replacement cost value for the State facilities provides a total risk exposure.

### **Environmental Impacts**

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Normally, instance of civil unrest will have a minimum of impact on the environment. However, if petroleum or other chemical facilities were a target for vandalism or large scale fires occurred, the impact on the environment could be significant (NJ State HMP 2011).