



For this muddy disaster, BTE supplied Greis Trucking & Excavating with the hi-rail excavators to get the mud and debris removed from the track and to help repair flooded damage ditches.

#### **BTE**

Torrential rains, hurricanes or a sudden downpour can trigger devastating mudslides. Instantly filling trackside drainage ditches, these dangerous mudflows bring debris, clay and sloppy conditions that contaminate ballast, clog culverts and cause treacherous track washouts.

Quick response to drainage problems resulting from these muddy disasters is critical for keeping trains running smoothly and avoiding costly delays, said Ballast Tools Equipment (BTE) President Ned Williams.

BTE has the equipment to help repair railroad tracks that have been damaged by natural disasters.

Recently, a Class 1 railroad called for emergency help when heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Gordon caused multiple messy mudslides, closing an important railroad track to all traffic, Williams said.

This particular track was built along a river at the bottom of a steep cliff, making the muddy landslide areas difficult to access as they were miles from the nearest crossing.

"It was a soupy, nasty, muddy Mississippi River mess," Williams said.

Time was of the essence and multiple BTE Hi-Rail Excavators were dispatched and quickly hi-railed to the jobsite more than 30 miles away. Hi-rail rotary-dump trucks met the excavators near the disaster area to help with the situation.

"BTE machines are engineered to handle long distance rail travel," Williams said. "The robust hi-rail drive gear stays cool and can handle lengthy mileage runs without interruptions."

The BTE excavators got to work immediately. When support trucks and equipment arrived, Williams said BTE's tracked machines easily cleared for the passing equipment and then jumped back on-track to continue working from the hi-rail position.

"We are able to work on this single line track quickly and efficiently," Williams said. "Ditching with a powerful BTE excavator in the hi-rail position is fast and effective, allowing miles of ditches to be cleaned out in short order."

BTE supplied Greis Trucking & Excavating with much of the equipment to get the track drainage problems stabilized. Williams said the skilled Greis team worked through the weekend to clear the mud and open the track.

Additional work will be required to reopen culverts, undercut and replace fouled ballast areas and improve the uphill bank stability.

For more typical track maintenance, Greis has upgraded several of their excavators with BTE's hi-rail systems and extensive lineup of specialty attachments to improve productivity and efficiency.

The versatility of BTE machines allows operators to perform multiple functions with just one machine. The BTE-313 Hi-Rail Excavator, for instance, easily handles more than a dozen of BTE's versatile attachments and ditching buckets, including a high-performance BTE Undercutter and the BTE Culvert Cleaner.

"With BTE, you can take care of these natural disasters including the ditching, the undercutting, the culvert cleaning, with just one machine," Williams said. "BTE has versatile machines in multiple sizes to meet our customers' needs and get the job done effectively and efficiently."