

A Commitment to Safety beyond Our Rails

Railroads play an integral role in the well-being of large and small towns throughout our nation, delivering the raw materials and finished goods American businesses and consumers need. More important than delivering economic prosperity is ensuring safety. Safety efforts of the rail industry extend far beyond the railroad's 180,000 employees and 140,000 mile rail network, reaching into the communities they serve.

Partnering with Our Communities

Railroads work closely with state and local leaders and emergency responders across their network to ensure that communities understand how railroads operate and are prepared in the event of an accident.

- **Routing.** As common carriers, railroads are required by law to transport hazardous materials. Railroads use a sophisticated statistical routing tool designed to determine rail routes that pose the least overall safety and security risk for the transportation of certain hazardous materials. This tool, developed in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uses 27 risk factors — including hazmat volume, trip length, population density along the route, and emergency response capability — to assess the safety and security of rail routes.
- **Information Sharing.** Railroads provide local authorities, upon request, with a list of the hazardous materials, including crude oil, transported through their communities. Railroads also equip train dispatchers and crews with information about hazmat on individual trains and detailed emergency response information specific to those materials.
- **Emergency Response Training.** Each year, thousands of emergency responders and railroad and shipper employees receive specialized training through individual railroad efforts and industry programs. The Security and Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC) at the AAR's Transportation Technology Center has trained more than 50,000 transportation, emergency response, chemical, government agency and emergency response employees and contractors from all over the world to safely handle accidents involving tank cars carrying hazardous materials. Railroads also support industry partnership such as TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) and Chemtrec (Chemical Transportation EmergencyCenter). TRANSCAER® is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident. Chemtrec is a 24/7 resource for emergency responders that provides access to critical resources, such as chemical product, medical and toxicology experts, to assist in mitigation of incidents involving hazardous materials. Railroads train more than 20,000 emergency responders each year through their own efforts and through these industry partnerships.
- **Customer Best Practices.** The Non-Accident Release (NAR) Reduction Task Force was created in 1995 by the Association of American Railroads to reduce the number of NARs by promoting proper "securement" of tank cars and their safe handling in transportation by increasing awareness,

encouraging improved practices, gathering data and distributing findings. The NAR Reduction Task Force consists of railroads, shippers, railcar owners, trade associations, component suppliers and regulatory agencies from the United States and Canada.

- **Community Response Planning.** Railroads actively participate in state emergency planning committees and state agency conferences on emergency response. They also help communities develop and evaluate their own emergency response plans. These activities include representatives from local fire and health departments, education institutions, industry organizations, transportation departments and the public.
- **Equipment Availability and Staging.** Railroads invest in equipment – including foam trailers – used to train emergency response personnel and respond to accidents involving hazardous materials. This equipment is strategically located throughout the network to ensure that it can arrive quickly at the scene of an accident.
- **Accident Response and Remediation.** In the rare case of a train accident, railroads swiftly implement their emergency response plans and work closely with first responders to help minimize casualties and property damage caused by the accident. They help provide services for any misplaced families to try to limit inconvenience and displacement. Typically, railroads reimburse local emergency response agencies for the cost of materials expended for accident response and environmental remediation.