Freight Rail Shipments of Hazardous Materials

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Overview

Freight Railroads Are Required to Move Hazmat

Freight Railroads Move Hazmat Safely

Freight Railroads Operate under Multiple Layers of Security
Hazardous Materials Are a Very Small Portion of U.S. Rail Traffic

- Not Hazmat: 95.0%
- Hazmat: 4.7%
- Toxic: 0.3%
Railroads are Safe and Getting Safer
(Index 1980=100)

- Grade crossing collisions
- Employee injuries & illnesses
- Train accidents

'80 '82 '84 '86 '88 '90 '92 '94 '96 '98 '00 '02 '04 '06 '08

p – preliminary
Source: FRA
Making Tank Cars Safer
Preparing Through Emergency Response Training

Railroads provide basic emergency response training to communities throughout the country – 20,000/year

Emergency Response Training Center

Training site for TSA’s rail inspectors
Making Informed Routing Decisions
Existing Rules Focus on Hazmat

- DOT Regulations already require transporters of hazardous materials to develop and implement security plans and train appropriate employees.
- Carriers required to expedite movement of hazmat – within 48 hours after accepting shipment.
- AAR protocols in place for hazmat shipments.
TSA Issued Security Guidelines

TSA issued voluntary security guidelines to augment rail industry’s security plan;

A list of 24 proposed voluntary action items were issued in June 2006 and another 3 were issued in November 2006.
TSA Hazmat Security Guidelines

- System security practices for toxic by inhalation (TIH) materials;
- Access controls;
- En-route security practices
TSA Focus: High Threat Urban Areas

- 46 metropolitan locations
- Site specific plans
- Risk reduction goals
DHS Rail Security Regulations

- Rail security coordinator
- TSA inspections
- Location and shipping information
- Chain of custody and control
Compile data
Analyze routes
Address unplanned delays
Minimize pick-up and delivery times
Carriers to inspect for tampering and IEDs
Hazmat Routing Analysis

- Requires carriers to compile data on TIH shipments
- Requires analysis of alternative routes
- Requires selection of the route with the least safety and security risks when transporting TIH
Positive Train Control Mandate

PTC must be in place wherever TIH is routed by December 31, 2015
Questions

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