



Fact Sheet: Preparedness Initiatives for Flammable Liquids/Crude by Rail Incidents

ISSUE

The rapid escalation of domestic rail shipments of flammable liquids, including crude oil, grew from 9,500 train car loads in 2008 to 435,560 loads in 2013—an increase of nearly 4,500 percent. The growth in volume transported has also increased the risk of spills, fires, and other effects associated with train derailments and other accidents. Recent incidents in Lac Mégantic, Quebec, Castleton, North Dakota, Aliceville, Alabama, Lynchburg, Virginia, Mount Carbon, West Virginia, and Galena, Illinois illustrates the consequences of shale crude oil and other flammable liquids incidents by rail on surrounding communities, people, and the environment.

PURPOSE

State and local first responders play a critical role in preparation for and response to crude by rail transportation incidents. This fact sheet identifies emergency preparedness and response resources available from the Federal government, including the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to complement ongoing efforts by the whole community to prepare for crude by rail incidents and fill remaining response gaps. The Federal government developed these preparedness resources for state, local, tribal, and territorial organizations to enhance needed training and exercises and help stakeholders better prepare for crude by rail or flammable liquids incidents. This fact sheet summarizes the rail emergency planning and response resources for crude by rail and other flammable liquids incidents from various Federal agencies, including an upcoming exercise series, and federally supported training programs.

FEDERAL RESOURCES

The following catalogue describes available federally supported incident planning and response information, exercise toolkits, and various training courses designed to enhance community preparedness for rail transportation of crude oil and other flammable liquids. Each resource listed also includes contact information if additional details are required.

Planning, Preparedness, and Response Resources

The Federal Government provides the primary leadership and support for oil spill preparedness under a multi-level, multi-agency National Response System established by the Clean Water Act as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The 15-member agency National Response Team, chaired by the EPA with the Coast Guard serving as vice-chair, guides the National Response System. Thirteen Regional Response Teams (RRTs) provide regional support and coordination with states. RRTs also play an active role in planning and preparedness for hazardous liquid spills, including crude by rail incidents, through the development of Area Contingency Plans and Geographic Response Plans. Local jurisdictions can call upon RRTs for operational/incident management support during an incident. The National Response System provides for a Federal

On-Scene Coordinator who integrates Federal resources into an incident response through the Incident Command System.

Additionally, www.ready.gov provides information to the public about steps to take before, during and after hazardous materials incidents.

Exercise Scenarios and Toolkit

FEMA and US DOT are developing exercise scenarios and toolkits for state, local, tribal, and territorial stakeholders that will help assess first responder capability for a bulk crude oil/flammable liquid incident by rail.

- **The FEMA National Exercise Program’s Operation Safe Delivery Series** comprises three workshops that will support community preparedness and resilience by examining and validating capabilities necessary to reduce risk, mitigate potential consequences, and ensure capacity to respond to and recover from transportation incidents involving crude oil and other flammable liquids. The three workshops will take place in urban (Jersey City, New Jersey), rural (LaCrosse, Wisconsin), and tribal (Blackfoot Nation, Montana) jurisdictions to validate and test the exercise toolkit for scalability before delivery to the states in Fall 2015.

Additional information is available from: FEMA’s National Exercise Division (NED@fema.dhs.gov)

- **DOT/Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)** is currently developing table-top scenarios to offer a flexible approach to train first responders and emergency personnel on best practices for pre-incident planning and response to rail incidents involving flammable liquids such as petroleum crude oil and ethanol, referred to as the Transportation Rail Incident Preparedness & Response. PHMSA expects the modules currently under development through TRIPR project to be available in May 2015. PHMSA will publish the modules on [PHMSA’s Safe Transportation of Energy Products](#) Emergency Response and Training Information website.

Existing Training Opportunities

The Federal interagency group compiled a catalogue of federally funded training courses and other resources related to emergency planning and response to crude oil and flammable liquid incidents by rail that are available to state, local, tribal, and territorial public safety emergency response agencies and organizations.

Table 1 details federally funded training courses.

Table 1: Federally supported flammable liquid/crude by rail transportation emergency planning and response training courses

Existing Training Opportunities		
Federal Agency	Training Organization	Description
DOT	PHMSA Hazardous Materials Safety Assistance Team (HMSAT)	HMSAT conducts workshops around the country to help the regulated industry and key stakeholders understand and comply with the Hazardous Materials Regulations. HMSAT also provides training on the Emergency Response Guidebook and information on DOT regulatory and emergency response initiatives.

		For more information: http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/outreach-training/seminars-and-workshops
DOT	PHMSA	PHMSA is currently developing the Transportation Rail Incident Preparedness & Response (TRIPR) training modules and table-top scenarios to offer a flexible approach to train first responders and emergency personnel on best practices for pre-incident planning and response to rail incidents involving flammable liquids such as petroleum crude oil and ethanol. The TRIPR project is currently under development and is expected to be available on PHMSA's Emergency Response and Training Information website in May 2015. For more information: http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/osd/emergencyresponse
EPA	The Training Exchange Website (TRAINEX)	EPA provides a range of aggregated training information—including training course descriptions, schedules, and registration links for classroom and internet-based courses—to internal stakeholders; other Federal agencies; and state, local, and tribal hazardous waste management personnel through the TRAINEX website. For more information: http://www.trainex.org/
FEMA	Transportation Technology Center Incorporated (TTCI)	Transportation Technology Center (TTCI), as a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), offers numerous hazardous materials courses for rail incidents, for technicians and specialists. A new program, Crude by Rail, designed for local first responders, is held at TTCI's Security and Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC) in Pueblo, Colorado. Freight rail carriers also provide funding to assist first responder training at SERTC. For more information: http://sertc.org/
FEMA	Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP)	FEMA CDP offers in-state courses to states with an identified training need for hazardous materials response to crude oil incidents. For more information: https://cdp.dhs.gov/
FEMA	Emergency Management Institute (EMI)	EMI offers a virtual tabletop exercise (VTTX) and integrated emergency management course series, V0031 – VTTX Series – Hazmat Oil, focused on crude oil railway spills. For more information: https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx
FEMA	United States Fire Administration (USFA)	USFA provides incident best practices, training, and informational materials to local firefighters registered to the USFA listserv via infograms and social media.

		For more information: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/ For “coffee break” training materials: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee_break/hazmat_index.html
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