



# Transporting Chemicals: Elements of Rail Safety



Railroads have a strong safety record for transporting chemicals and can move the same amount of materials using fewer shipments than other modes such as by truck. We transport chemicals because the nation needs chemicals to support:



**Agriculture**



**Energy**



**Public Health & Safety**



**Manufacturing**

Safety is a shared responsibility. Railroads, shippers and the government must work together to deliver vital chemicals to where they are needed without incident. The transportation of chemicals, including those classified as hazardous, requires a range of safety measures to:

### Prevent Rail Accidents

One of the most important parts of the rail safety equation is to prevent derailments. Railroads have recently deployed new technologies to conduct track inspections, detect equipment failures and avoid collisions.

### Avoid Material Releases

Rail tank cars also play an important safety role as well. Chemical manufacturers own or lease rail cars that are built in accordance with federal standards. Rail tank cars used to ship hazardous materials are equipped with safety features to help prevent a release during a derailment. Shippers have made significant investments in recent years to upgrade their fleets and will continue to do so.

### Support Emergency Response

Assistance is provided to first responders through calls to the American Chemistry Council's CHEMTREC® service. CHEMTREC provides immediate critical response information regarding chemicals and hazardous materials. ACC also works with railroads and other transportation partners to provide training and resources for emergency responders through the TRANSCAER® program.

### By the Numbers

# 99.9%

More than 99.9% of all hazmat moved by rail reaches its destination without a release caused by a train accident.

# 78%

Rail accident rates involving hazardous materials have declined by 78 percent since 2000.

# <1%

Of all train accidents have resulted in a hazmat release.