



Oil and Hazardous Substance Transportation Awareness Level Course

Purpose of this Fact Sheet

In accordance with the recently enacted legislation for Railroad and Pipeline safety, Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal Division, Office of Pipeline Safety, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the pipeline and rail operators in Minnesota are offering an awareness level training for first responders.

This fact sheet is designed to provide basic information about the Oil and Hazardous substance awareness level training that is instructed by the Hazardous Materials Response Planners within the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

This fact sheet does not supersede any plans, procedures, or guidelines that are in use.

HSEM Hazardous Materials Response Planner and State Emergency Response Teams Coordinator

HSEM maintains a planner positions for all oil and hazardous substance transportation training. The awareness program will be presented by instructors with experience in the areas of rail and pipeline operations, hazardous materials response, and large incident response. The planner also works directly with the team's coordinator. The team's coordinator manages the operations of the statewide system of regional response teams: hazardous material teams, chemical assessment teams (as defined under the Minnesota Hazardous Materials Incident Response Act), bomb disposal squads, and structural collapse teams. This includes providing information and guidance to local and state responders so they can plan, train, and prepare for all-hazards, including terrorist threats.

Course Overview

The oil and hazardous substance transportation awareness level course will provide the first responder with the general information on how oil is transported through the state of Minnesota. The training consists of four modules: Pipeline, Rail, Response, and Environmental. Introductory sections will discuss the modes of transportation, railroad and pipelines, and the infrastructure that is unique to each. Additional sections will discuss the properties of Bakken or Tar sands crude oil, hazards associated with crude oil, other commodities transported, major transportation routes and challenges within Minnesota. The class will culminate with the discussion of response to an incident including oil. Roles and responsibility of emergency responders, emergency management, and pipeline or rail companies, elected officials, environmental and pollution control and regulators will be discussed using local critical infrastructure information.

Who's Eligible for the Course?

The attendee must be a first responder of a local fire department, police department, emergency management agency, sheriff's office, emergency medical provider. Priority will be given to those departments that have a pipeline or rail within their jurisdiction.

Second priority will be to those jurisdictions that would have mutual aid agreements to assist jurisdictions that have pipeline or rail. Third level priority will be those who do not have a pipeline or rail and not initial mutual aid response.

Additional Information Please Contact

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