2016 NRT Worker Safety and Health Technical Conference

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Accidents:

We do respond to emergencies, local emergency responders, carriers along with their hazardous materials response and clean-up teams and the chemical shippers are the experts.

Allow them to do their jobs!
FRA’s Purpose:
To determine probably cause of accidents/incidents for future prevention
Coordination:

- National Transportation Safety Board,
- Transportation Security Administration
- ..and any other state, local agency or private entity (shippers and/or carriers) participating in either the clean-up investigation and/or fatality investigation.
Divisions of safety

- Track and bridges & structures
- Signal & train control systems
- Motive power and equipment
- Operating practices
- Trespasser and grade crossings
- Hazardous materials
- Passenger
Accident Notifications are reported to:
NRC (National Response Center)
during business hours
FRA Accident Branch
after business hours – duty officer
Criteria for major accident investigations:

• Any collision (main or yard track), derailment, or passenger train incident resulting in at least one fatality or serious injury to railroad passengers or crewmembers,

• Any railroad–related incident resulting in the death to an on-duty railroad employee, including an employee of a contractor to a railroad regardless of craft,

• Any non-casualty train accident resulting in a derailment of a locomotive, 15 cars or more, and extensive property damage
Criteria for major accident investigations: Any highway-rail grade crossing accident resulting in any of the following:

Death to one or more persons being transported in a commercial vehicle or school bus.

Serious injury to several persons being transported in a commercial vehicle or school bus.

Death to three or more persons in a private highway vehicle.

Accidents involving grade crossing signal failure or allegations of grade crossing signal failure.
Criteria for major accident investigations:

Military shipments with munitions or nuclear materials

Runaways with or without locomotives

Accidents involving main transportation such as closure of an airport or highway

Criminal mischief, sabotage or terrorism

Accidents where bridges/tunnels damaged

Any collision involving maintenance-of-way or hi-rail equipment.
Inspectors:

Will arrive on scene and report to the incident commander

When cleared by the incident commander to enter site, inspectors will enter hot zone and document all aspects of the accident.

Serve as the SME as needed to the incident commander
Inspectors:

Vital that our inspectors arrive on scene before equipment is moved by the railroad or contractors or as soon as practical.
Inspectors:

Will determine probably cause of the Accident that could ultimately result in:

- Emergency orders
- Personal liability issues
- Rulemaking
- Follow-up inspections for compliance
Accident causes:

**Track**

- Broken rails
- Defective switches
- Wide gage
- Internal defects not reported or properly followed up
Accident causes:

**Signal & Train Control**

- Circuit problems
- Signal failures
- Vandalism of signal boxes
Accident causes:

Motive Power and Equipment

Defective wheels

Dragging equipment

Broken couplers

Braking issues
Accident causes:

Operating Practices

Human failures

*Hours of service*

*Disregard of signals*

*Drugs & alcohol*

*Electronic distraction*
Accident causes:

**Trespasser & Grade Crossing**

Crossing signal failures—not common

Trespassers - disregarding warning signals and impairment from alcohol or drugs

Engineering, education, enforcement
Accident causes:

Hazardous Materials

*Usually* the result of one of the other failures and NOT THE CAUSE of the accidents (*we are all of the pretty lights, noises and colorful smoke*)
Accident causes:

**Hazardous Materials**

In your area you can be prepared for HM accidents by finding out what is passing through your jurisdiction.

Better to know ahead of time rather than pre-notification of each shipment.
Accident causes:

**Hazardous Materials**

NIMBY (not in my backyard) is sometimes used as a cause just because of media coverage over the hazardous materials reaction involved, but..

its 38 times safer than other modes of transportation.
Questions?

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