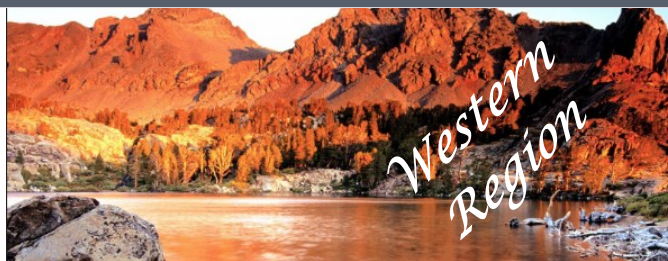




# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OUTREACH



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## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ RE-GRAND OPENING
- ◇ ONE PHMSA APPROACH
- ◇ SAFETY ADVISORY
- ◇ BACKHAUL ALASKA
- ◇ DISTILLERY ASSISTANCE
- ◇ AK MULTI-MODAL
- ◇ LPG SAFETY

## HAZMAT REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Have a question regarding the transportation of hazmat or dangerous goods? Utilize the PHMSA Help Desk at 1-800-HMR-4922. The help desk is staffed 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. (EST)

## WELCOME BACK

Welcome! The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Western Region Office has combined the Alaska and Pacific Islands newsletters into one circulation. We have streamlined the information and noted that most content in both newsletters is important to each area within our jurisdiction. Therefore, all essential information will receive a special section in the combined newsletter to address each unique area of concern. If you subscribed to either or both your subscription is no longer available, please subscribe again using the link in the email in which you received this newsletter.

Thank you for being a subscriber and we hope safety is always your first priority.

## ONE PHMSA APPROACH

PHMSA's fifth Administrator, Howard "Skip" Elliott, was unanimously sworn in by the U.S. Senate on October 5, 2017. Mr. Elliott immediately laid out his priority plan to the staff, affectionately known as "PHMSANS" to streamline the agency. Although the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety departments each have

unique regulations and industries served, Skip wanted to ensure that we were serving the American public in the most efficient manner without compromising safety.



Howard "Skip" Elliott

Skip's leadership has fostered the incorporation of the Office of Planning and Analytics (OPA) and Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), both meant to focus on data driven decisions and spending the taxpayers' money as prudently as possible. OPA's purpose is to develop a regulatory agenda that is forward-looking rather than reactive. Fitting into the framework of "One PHMSA", OPA deals directly with both sides of the house and the result is quality data driving key decisions and interpreting safety risks. The OCFO is a one stop shop that supports the financial oversight of the agency. Acquisition, budget and finance, and information resources is the three-pronged approach that represents how PHMSA operates responsibly on a daily basis.

Both the Pipeline and Hazard-

ous Materials Safety departments have community outreach programs. Once independent, the programs are now working side by side at events to learn from one another. The sharing of contacts and other vital information relevant to each other's program is exactly what Skip had in mind, and under his leadership, PHMSANS are continually finding new ways to help bring about his "One PHMSA" initiative.

## SAFETY ADVISORY— METAL MATE

PHMSA is issuing a [safety advisory notice](#) to inform the public, industrial gas stakeholders, and relevant government officials of the risks associated with requalifying, filling, and transporting cylinders bearing the Department of Transportation (DOT) specification markings "DOT 4E" or "DOT 4BA" that were produced by the Metal Mate Company in Thailand. Metal Mate does not have an approval from PHMSA to manufacture cylinders to DOT specifications, therefore, cylinders marked with the Metal Mate name are not DOT specification cylinders. They must not be used to transport hazardous materials in commerce to, from, or within the United States, or on a United States-registered aircraft. These cylinders may not perform to the marked DOT per-



agencies but you can network with businesses in the same field and those from other industries. PHMSA will have sessions on a variety of topics including a general overview of complying with the hazardous materials regulations; enforcement and what it's like to go through an inspection; modal specific operations; and Q&A sessions.

Keep an eye on our website and newsletter for the announcement of dates for each city. We look forward to seeing you as soon as we are out from under the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

## Did You Know?

PHMSA has been busy serving the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to provide relief from certain regulations, PHMSA has issued:

**6—**Enforcement policies relaxing the requirements on transportation of certain hazardous materials such as hand sanitizer, packaging, and recurrent training.

**2—**Guidance documents on regulatory requirements and social distancing and the safe transportation of COVID-19 materials.

**5—**COVID-19 related special permits, specifically issued to reduce the risk from the pandemic.

In addition, PHMSA has documented over **500** interactions with the regulated industry and the public regarding COVID-19 related topics.

Additional COVID-19 resources can be found [here](https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/news/assistance-public-during-covid-19). <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/news/assistance-public-during-covid-19>

## LITHIUM BATTERY AIR SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary, has appointed representatives from PHMSA and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to form a Lithium Battery Air Safety Advisory Committee. This committee was formed due to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The appointed government representatives will be joined in the committee by representatives of the lithium battery and product manufacturing industries, air carriers, and shippers.

The purpose of the committee is to, in part, facilitate communication amongst industry representatives and provide an open line of communication with government representatives charged with the oversight of this hazardous material in air commerce. In so doing, the discussions have been effective in addressing concerns over economic and social impacts of lithium battery transportation regulations, new technologies, improved global enforcement of regulations, and above all the safe transport of lithium batteries.

To learn more about the committee and its members, please visit our website [here](https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/rulemakings/lithium-battery-air-safety-advisory-committee) (<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/rulemakings/lithium-battery-air-safety-advisory-committee>).

## BACKHAUL ALASKA UPDATE

Last year's Western Region Newsletter contained an article on the Backhaul Alaska program. Coordinated by the Zender Group, the program has seen significant growth and improvement in removing hazardous waste from remote villages within the state of Alaska.

The Zender Group is assisting remote villages in Alaska with disposing of hazardous waste generated by everyday activities. Rather than seeing the waste end up in local landfills, the Zender Group initiated a safe waste removal program that will be self-sustaining by the end of 2025. In the meantime, the Zender Group has received an outpouring of support from local, State, and Federal agencies, including PHMSA, to help get the program started. PHMSA's Western Region personnel have provided insight, training, and assistance to supplement the program's launch. Under the pilot program's first phase, over 21,000 pounds of plastics, 32,000 pounds of lead, 24 pounds of barium, and many other hazardous materials have been removed from the environment and disposed of properly. This is HUGE!

[Estimates of the pilot program's second phase promise to remove even more hazardous waste from Alaska's pristine environment. PHMSA's Western Region is proud to help with this program and is looking forward to Backhaul Alaska's continued success.](#)

If you would like to know more about the [Backhaul Alaska Program](#) or [Zender Environmental Group](#) use the links below:

<http://backhaulalaska.org/>

<http://zendergroup.org/>





# LPG SAFETY

## No Refill for 1 lb., Cylinders

*"Everett, WA,  
fire  
investigators  
determined the  
fire that killed a  
coffee stand  
owner started  
because she was  
refilling a small  
propane  
cylinder from a  
20-pound tank  
to fuel her  
portable  
heater."*

*-Fox Q13 News Staff*

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



# STOP!



**DO NOT REFILL**  
SMALL 1LB CYLINDERS  
INTENDED FOR **ONE TIME**  
USE ONLY!

CONTACT A QUALIFIED REFILLER  
TO DETERMINE IF A CYLINDER  
CAN BE FILLED PROPERLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE HAZMAT INFO CENTER:

 1-800-467-4922  
E-mail: [infocntr@dot.gov](mailto:infocntr@dot.gov)  
<http://hazmat.dot.gov>



Knowing your propane or Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder is very important to your safety and those around you. In 2016, a woman was tragically killed due to an explosion at a small coffee stand. In an effort to keep warm using a portable heater and, in order to keep it refueled, she attempted to refill the small, 1 lb., cylinder using a 20 lb., cylinder with a small fitting in between.

This happens all too often as this *incorrect refilling process* is demonstrated time and again on YouTube and uploaded onto the Internet. DOT has regulatory authority of the design and manufacture of these 1 lb., cylinders, also known as DOT 39s. They are specifically designed *to be used once* and then disposed of or recycled. The stress of emptying and refilling weakens the already thin walls of the cylinder.

*DOT cautions the public to never refill 1 lb., cylinders.*