

A guidebook intended for use by first responders  
during the initial phase of a transportation incident  
involving hazardous materials/dangerous goods

# 2024

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK



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



Transport  
Canada

Transports  
Canada



COMUNICACIONES



## Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) 2024

Neal Suchak

U.S. DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration (PHMSA), Communications Branch

[Neal.Suchak@dot.gov](mailto:Neal.Suchak@dot.gov)

(202) 839-0498



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

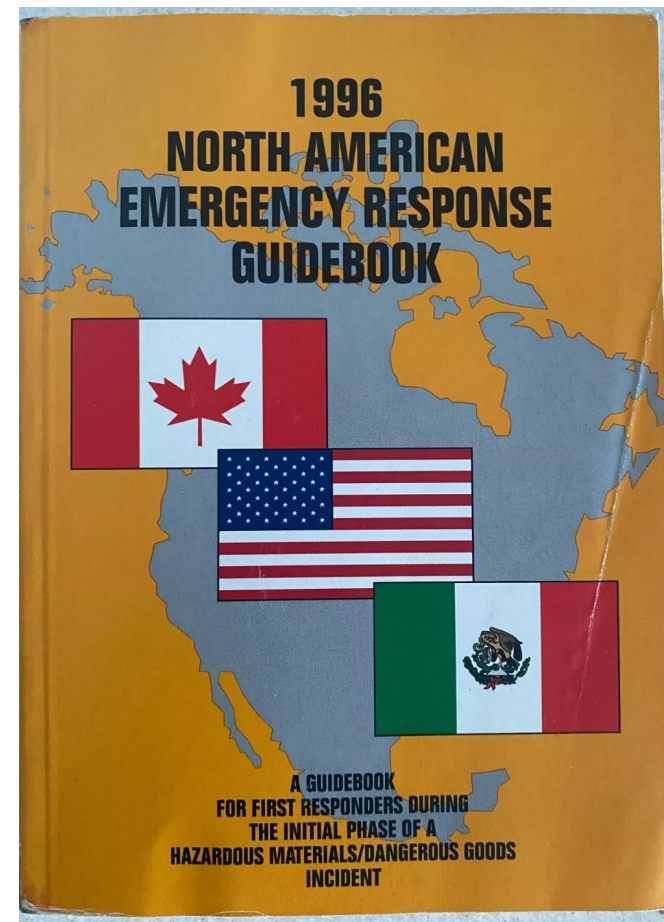
PHMSA: Your Safety is Our Mission



# What is it?



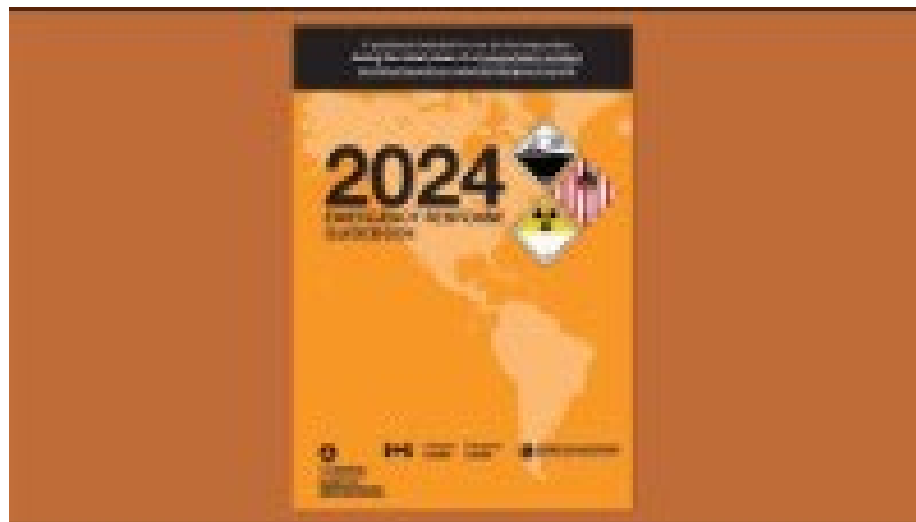
- **Rapid guide in the first minutes of hazmat incident**
- **Known globally as “Little Orange Book**
- **Responders use hazard communication (e.g., placard) to quickly search guidance**
- **Distributed FREE to all fire, police, or emergency service, or tribal personnel in North America**
- **Available as book or mobile app**
- **Developed cooperatively by US, Canadian, and Mexican government**



# How to Use It



- **Identify the material involved in the incident**
  - Use “hazard communication” (placards, labels, or hazardous materials shipping papers)
  - Find UN number (UN + 4 digits) or “proper shipping name”
- Use **Yellow** pages to locate material by UN number
- Use **Blue** pages to locate material by name
- Identify corresponding **Orange** guide page
- Use **Green** pages to identify initial isolation distances and protective action distances



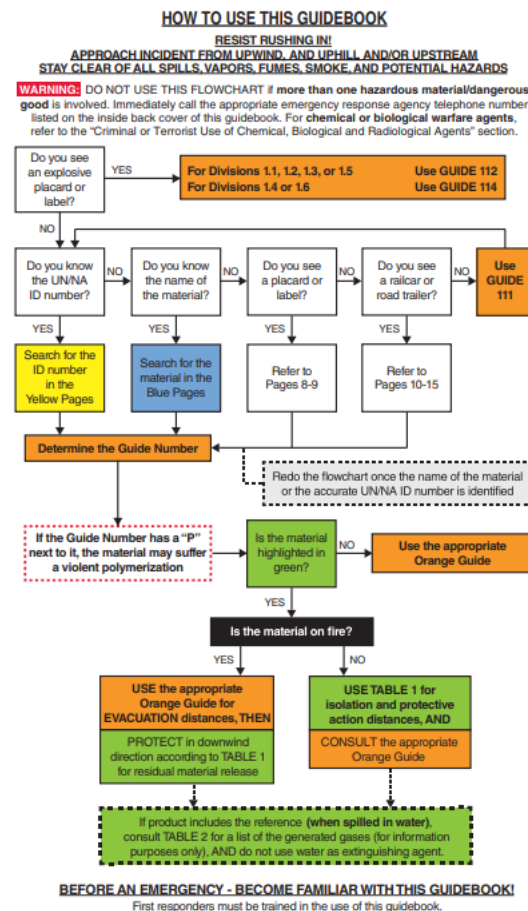
[Video](#): “Overview of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) 2024” on [@TransportCanada](#) YouTube page



# How to Use It



- The *White* pages are reference materials that include:
  - Shipping paper guide
  - *How to Use* flow chart
  - Hazard Classification Chart + Placards, Labels, and Markings
  - Road Trailer Identification Chart
  - Rail Car Identification Chart
  - Pipeline information
  - Decontamination information
  - Shelter-in-place vs. evacuation considerations
  - Criminal or Terrorist Use of Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Agents information
  - Glossary
  - And much more!





# ERG 2024 by the Numbers



- **1,917,064 books printed**
  - **U.S.: 1,812,064**
  - **Canada: 85,000**
  - **Mexico: 20,000**
- **Over 150 shipments (40 books/carton, 36 cartons/pallet, 30 pallets/truck)**
  - **Largest – Texas 168,840 books (3.9 semi-truck loads)**
  - **Smallest – U.S. Virgin Islands 200 books**
- **2,033,230 mobile app users**
- **3 countries, 50 states, 6 territories, 80 tribes/tribal organizations**



*American Samoa saying “Tālofa” to their new ERGs at their ERG Workshop in May 2024*



# ERG Development



- Printed on a four year cycle
- Work on ERG 2028 has already begun
- Revisions are based on regulatory changes and public comment
  - Send comments to [ERGcomments@dot.gov](mailto:ERGcomments@dot.gov)
- International coordination council of scientists and emergency services interested parties



*The team proudly showing off the signed ERG 2024 cover before it heads to print (1/18/24)*



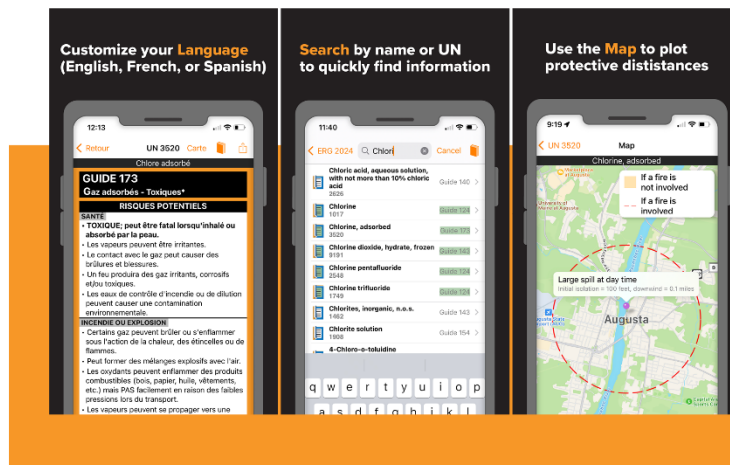
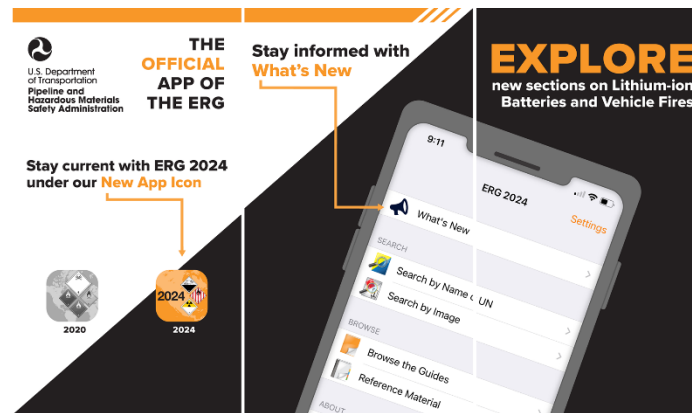


# Mobile App

- Developed in-house launched April 1, 2024
- Available on iOS (iPad and mobile), Android
- No new download, update to existing app
- Native translation to English, French, Spanish w/ translated app version of Summary of Changes
- New icon, store listing



## ERG 2024 App Store Overhaul



**RE-DESIGNS FOR**  
**ERG for Android**  
**&**  
**ERG for iOS**



# Social Media Campaign



**#GotMyERG**

**Follow us!**  
**[@PHMSA DOT](#)**  
**on X**  
**[PHMSA](#)** on  
**LinkedIn**  
**[@PHMSADOT](#)**  
**on YouTube**



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

**PHMSA: Your Safety is Our Mission**





# U.S. Rollout



**April 5, 2024 was PHMSA's "ERG Day"**

- [Press Release](#)
- **Ohio Fire Academy "ribbon-cutting" feat. PHMSA Associate Administrator William S. Schoonover and Deputy Administrator Tristan Brown**
- **Electronic version released on PHMSA website**
- **Social media posts including special message from U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg**



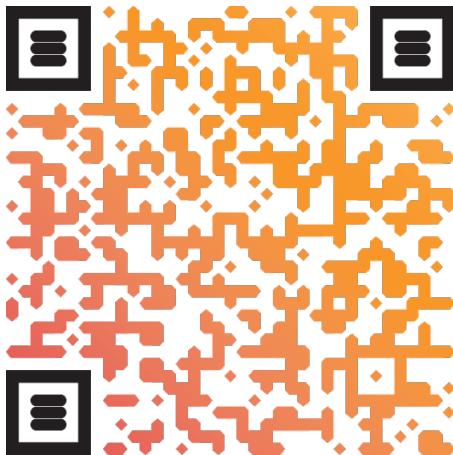
*U.S. Transportation Secretary Buttigieg's ERG Promo Video*



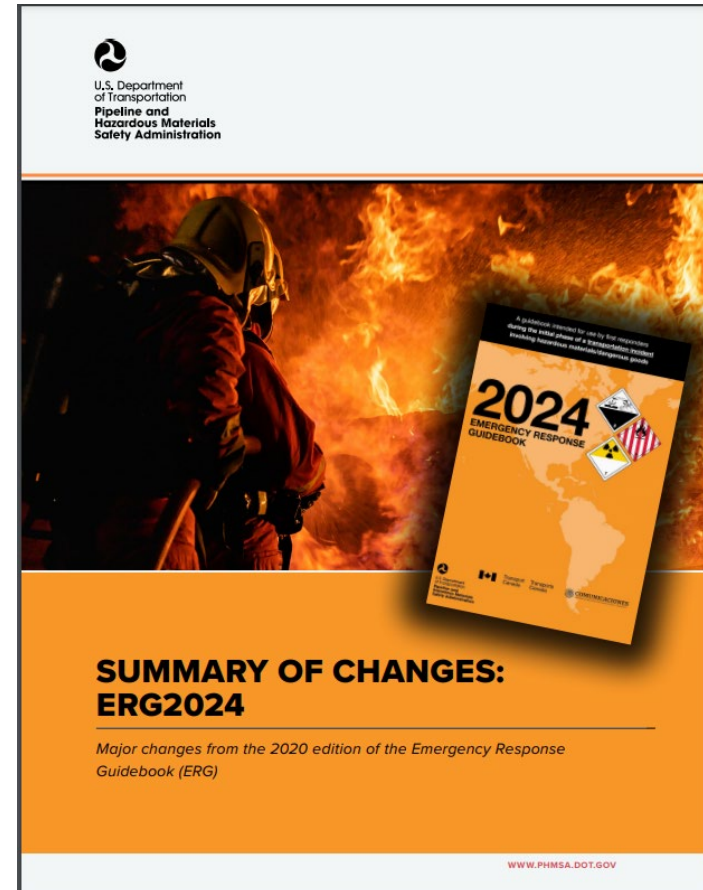
# What's New?



- Published *Summary of Changes: ERG2024* Brochure
- Available in English, Spanish, French
- Available in the ERG mobile app
- Available in hard copy for free in English, Spanish, French
  - To order, contact [training@dot.gov](mailto:training@dot.gov)



*Summary of Changes*



# What's New?



- **White pages:**

- Considerations for EV fires
- Removed obsolete Marine Pollutant and yellow Division 5.2 placard
- Identification of damaged, defective, or recalled lithium batteries
- Updated Road Trailer/Rail Car identification charts for new configurations (e.g., cryogenic railcar)
- New section: Chemical and Biological Warfare Agents (moved from **Green** pages)
- Expanded glossary

- **Yellow/Blue** pages:

- Eleven (11) new UN numbers added and assigned **Orange** Guide pages
- Moved nineteen (19) materials to different **Orange** Guide pages

- **Orange** pages:

- Moved “General First Aid” recommendations to new section before guide pages for all guides
- Revised 15 guides, including Guide 147 for lithium-ion batteries
  - Revised firefighting recommendations
  - Added guidance for EV fires
  - Includes sodium-ion batteries

- **Green** pages

- Revised distances in Tables 1 & 3
- No new entries from new UN numbers

- **Miscellaneous:**

- QR Codes for
  - Incident Reporting (US)
  - CANUTEC
  - SICT





# Free Resources



**PHMSA's ERG Website:** <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/erg/emergency-response-guidebook-erg>

- **PDF versions of the ERG**
  - Accessible
  - English, Spanish, French
- **ERG2020 Archive**
- **How to Use the ERG Video**
- **ERG2024 Cover Files**
- **Request data files (.docx, .xlsx) or publication files (.indd)**
- **State Coordinators List**
- **Commercial Suppliers List**

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▼

United States Department of Transportation

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

Sign-up for Email Alerts Newsroom

Search

About PHMSA Safety Regulations and Compliance Resources

[Home](#) / [Training](#) / [Hazmat](#) / [Emergency Response Guidebook \(ERG\)](#)

Hazardous Materials Outreach & Engagement

Training Requirements for Industry

Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

Workshops

Webinars

Community Liaisons (CLs)

Publications


Publicaciones (en español)

Newsletters

Training Modules

Videos and Mobile Apps

## Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)



**The 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook and mobile application is now available!**

### Quickly Identify Hazardous Materials Emergency Procedures

The 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook provides first responders with a manual intended for use during the initial phase of a transportation incident involving hazardous materials/dangerous goods.



# ERG Distribution



**What were the pain points?**

**What went well?**

**What is your distribution like?**



**Take our survey!**



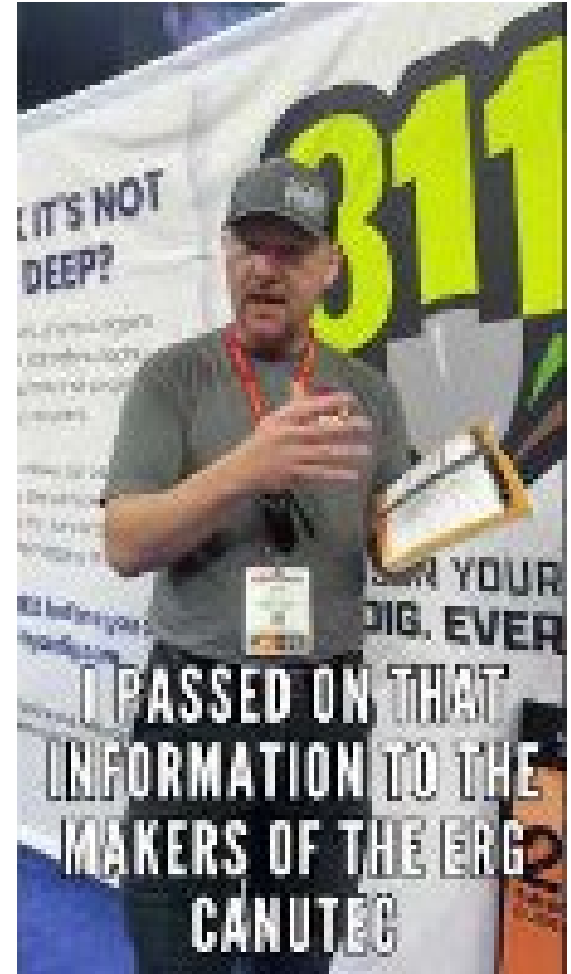
# What's Next?



- 2024 Argonne National Laboratories Report
- Editorial corrections
- Emergency Response Guidebook 2028
- Comments are open! Send yours:

## ERGComments @dot.gov

- International Working Group meetings kick-off in January 2025





# Thank You



*PHMSA Deputy Administrator Tristan Brown speaks at the Ohio Fire Academy on “ERG Day” (4/5/2024)*

**Neal Suchak**

Senior Communications

Specialist, [Communications, PHMSA](#)

Questions? Reach out:

Mobile: 202.839.0498

Email: [neal.Suchak@dot.gov](mailto:neal.Suchak@dot.gov)



**SUBSCRIBE TO  
HAZARDOUS  
MATTERS**



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

**PHMSA: Your Safety is Our Mission**



15