

Summit of Railroad HAZMAT Thought Leaders



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 25-27, 2024, the U.S. DOT - Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration hosted a Summit of Railroad HAZMAT Thought Leaders in Addison, Texas. The summit was held as a neutral forum to openly discuss the various forms of training, planning, outreach, and best practices available to the emergency preparedness community as it relates to the transportation of HAZMAT by railroads throughout the United States and Canada. Through a combination of expert panels, facilitated group discussions, and plenary reporting sessions, the summit engaged thought leaders from the emergency preparedness community, industry, and government to share their insight and feedback with a specific focus on rail-related training, planning and community outreach issues.



BACKGROUND OF THE SUMMIT

Following the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment, a group of veteran cross-sector subject matter experts prepared and published the white paper Considerations for Ensuring the Effectiveness of U. S. Railroad Hazardous Materials Training, Preparedness, and Community Outreach Programs© covering rail hazmat training, preparedness, and community outreach programs. The paper provides a comprehensive review of most rail hazmat training and outreach programs available to emergency responders throughout the U.S. today and served as the foundation for the Summit of Railroad HAZMAT Thought Leaders.

The Thought Leaders' Summit complemented the findings of the 2022 and 2023 Hazardous Materials Roundtables which discussed emerging trends and issues within the hazardous materials emergency preparedness community on a strategic level.

PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

Approximately 80 Federal, State, regional, local, and non-governmental personnel participated from 24 states and Canada, and over 60 organizations. Attendee organizations included railroads, first responders, training centers, academia, public officials, law enforcement, emergency managers, and city, county, state, and federal response officials.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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