



# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OUTREACH



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## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◊ Who Is PHMSA?
- ◊ DOT Outreach
- ◊ Regional Director
- ◊ LPG Safety
- ◊ Flying to/ from Alaska
- ◊ PHMSA Training Modules

## Who is PHMSA?

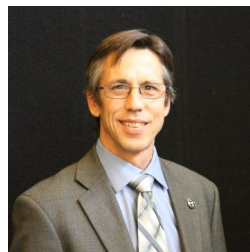
The Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) agency that develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.6-million-mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials (hazmat) by land, sea, and air. PHMSA comprises two safety offices—the Office of Pipeline Safety and the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (OHMS).

OHMS carries out a national safety program, including security matters, to protect against the risks to life and property inherent in the transportation of hazmat in

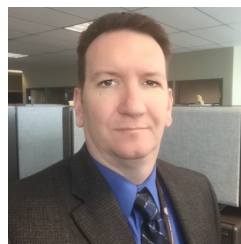
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order to convey the overall message of safety for the transportation of hazmat. They cover topics such as regulatory changes, upcoming and recent, broad training of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and will assist with any questions or concerns brought forth by industry and local, state, and federal entities that have an interest in the safe transportation of hazmat.

HMSAT uses standard presentations, or they can customize to specific requests. Please contact either HMSAT representative to set up a workshop in your area, or if you have questions.



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*(Cont'd., on p. 3)*

## Meet PHMSA's Western Region Director



Marc L. Nichols

Marc L. Nichols brings more than 30 years of hazmat experience to his position as Director of the Western Region. Prior to his arrival at PHMSA, Marc spent 12 years in the U.S. Air Force as a Transportation Specialist. Upon completion of his military tour of duty, he performed emergency response duties with an area of focus on cylinder reclamation and radio active materials. Marc joined PHMSA's Southern Region in June 2003. He held the position of Southern Region Representative and National Lead for the System Integrity Safety Program (SISP) from 2007–2014. As the national lead, his duties included developing and implementing in-depth analyses, observations, and cooperative follow-up

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## DOT Outreach

The Hazardous Materials Safety and Assistance Team (HMSAT) is a dedicated group of personnel whose sole job is to conduct outreach and training under DOT. HMSAT members hold regional workshops, presentations, attend meetings, and develop media in

### HAZMAT REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

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

(Cont'd., from p. 1)

investigations to identify the root causes of safety challenges throughout the transportation system. As the Region Director, Marc is responsible for day-to-day operations, and working with industry to ensure transparent, fair, and consistent enforcement of the regulations. Marc plays a key role in the region to achieve PHMSA's goal of enhancing the safe transportation of hazmat to achieve compliance.



## Alaska Flying - Be a Prudent Passenger

Air travel in Alaska is a vital link for commerce and tourism, and also the quickest way for residents to receive vital goods, lifesaving medicines, food, and even the basic necessities that those in the lower forty-eight take for granted. These goods often must arrive via air, as vessels are not the most expedient method when goods are needed quickly. Because of the long distances required flying to, from, and around Alaska, hazmat traveling via air presents its special challenges.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Non-compliance with training or training record keeping is the most identified deficiency during a PHMSA Inspection? You can avoid possible fines and increase your compliance by taking the time to develop a comprehensive training plan and document all of your required training. DOT requires the five following training categories:

- ◆ General Awareness
- ◆ Function Specific
- ◆ Safety Training
- ◆ Security Awareness
- ◆ In-Depth Security Training

The first four categories listed above are required for all shippers of hazmat, as applicable. In-depth security is for shippers who hold and maintain a Security Plan as required by 49 CFR 172.800. Please read 49 CFR 172.704 thoroughly to ensure you are or stay compliant with the training requirements.

Whether you are traveling to visit family and friends during that much-needed winter break, or transporting items from the lower forty-eight as items may be cheaper/easier to obtain, check out the following links that will assist you in determining the limitations on what you are allowed to travel with to reduce the chances of tangling with the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) or the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for "hazmat violations." You *can be fined* for checking or carrying on-board hazmat—even if you "didn't know." Remember, these limits are in place to keep your flight safe, so be sure to check both the [TSA](#) and [FAA](#) websites to help you determine if you're attempting to travel with regulated hazmat or an item of security interest. Also, don't forget to check with your servicing airline, as they can impose even stricter standards. The benefits of researching your items prior to your flight are enormous, as there are few safe places to land during an air travel emergency.

Some of the biggest challenges in keeping air travel safe are now focused on lithium batteries. These batteries are amazingly powerful and are now used in everything from surfboards, skateboards, to dive lamps, and even baby carriages. If you are transporting items containing lithium batteries, or batteries alone, ensure you are aware of the limits and requirements for safe transport of these items. There have been several fatal air crashes involving lithium batteries, so the dangers are real. With proper preparation and handling, hazardous items—including batteries—can be transported safely; however, training is essential and required. DOT's FAA partners with PHMSA to ensure that air travel remains the safest way to transport yourself, your loved ones, and needed items not just to remote areas of Alaska, but throughout the world. Please help PHMSA keep transportation safe for all of us.



commerce (other than bulk transportation onboard vessels). This is carried out by conducting inspections, enforcement, and outreach assistance.

The graphic below illustrates PHMSA's regions. Note, the Western Region is the largest, geographically, and offers two outreach personnel:



(Cont'd., from p. 1)

### PHMSA's Outreach Specialists:

Jack Whitley is a Transportation Specialist with DOT's Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and is the Western Region Coordinator for PHMSA's Hazardous Materials Safety Assistance Team. He is dedicated to providing hazmat education, technical assistance, and outreach throughout the Nation.

A primary goal of this team is to improve hazmat transportation safety and security through increased communication and education. This requires interaction and coordination with the modal administrations, industry associations, and state and local government organizations.

Jack's prior experience includes serving as an Investigator for PHMSA; a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Specialist in the U.S. Army (retired); Fire Fighter in the U.S. and abroad (Germany/Korea); and the Hazardous Materials Training Officer for the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Brandon "Wes" Westbrook is a retired Chief Marine Science Technician, U.S. Coast Guard. More than half of his 20 years with the Coast Guard were spent dealing with hazmat issues—from overseeing oil spill pollution response to inspections of hazmat shipments by water. Wes also was an instructor for the Coast Guard's training and assistance team for their inspectors enforcing domestic and international hazmat regulations for ocean-going cargo.

Wes continued his hazmat career as an inspector for FAA's hazmat shipments via air. He believes *"Training is the key to keeping up with regulatory changes for cargo moving at a fast pace—to ensure hazmat shipments remain error free."* Wes understood that FAA's future direction was one focusing on hazmat outreach and assistance.

*"Training is the key to keeping up with regulatory changes—to ensure error-free hazmat shipments."*

When Wes began his career with PHMSA, he said, *"I knew I wanted this job because I know I can assist people in gaining compliance rather than assigning them civil penalties and fines."* He brings practical, hands-on experience with inspections, investigations, and regulations.

These Outreach Specialists offer a wealth of experience to assist in clarifications or updates to regulatory changes for all modes of hazmat transportation.

## PHMSA's New Hazmat Training Modules Now On line!

PHMSA's newest on-line training program introduces users to the hazmat regulations (HMR), and may be used to meet the requirements for general awareness/familiarization training, or as the basis for developing function-specific training programs.

Current DOT regulations require initial and recurrent training of all employees who perform work functions covered by the HMR. Any employee whose work directly affects hazmat transportation safety is required to complete training.

OHMS has developed training modules that meet the requirements for general awareness training as prescribed in 49 CFR, Part 172, Subpart H.

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Training Modules contain an interactive training program for individual instruction. The training modules are available at:

<http://dothazmat.vividlms.com>

*Note:* This program is for training purposes only and is not a substitute for the HMR. Although the modules included in this program will be updated periodically, the regulations may change more frequently. To ensure you are in compliance with the current regulations, consult a current copy of the HMR and any subsequent final rules published in the Federal Register.



# 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. During the early winter of 2016, a woman was tragically killed by an explosion at a small coffee stand. She was attempting 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.

Time and again, this *incorrect refilling process* is demonstrated 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 disposed of or recycled**. The stress of emptying and refilling weakens the already thin walls of the

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