



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OUTREACH



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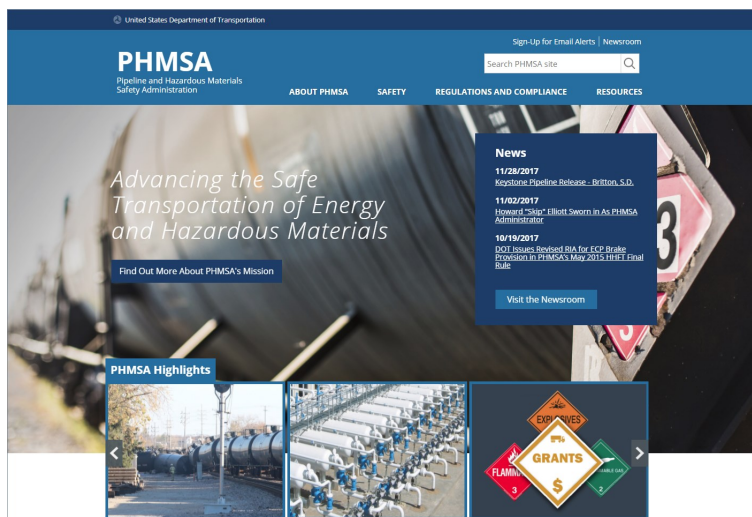
HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ PHMSA's NEW Website
- ◇ Regional Chief Investigator
- ◇ Hazmat Training YouTube Video
- ◇ Did You Know?
- ◇ PHMSA's New Administrator
- ◇ Holiday Safety : Lithium Batteries

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)

PHMSA's NEW Website



If you have not visited PHMSA's website recently, www.phmsa.dot.gov, you will be surprised by the fresh, modern look. All the same great information is there for you to discover: Letters of Interpretation, links to the Federal Register, training and outreach materials, and much more. If you are having trouble finding information, please feel free to reach out to us via our website and we will do our best to assist you. You can also reach out to our Hazmat Info Center who can help you find the information you are looking for as well.

Don't forget that PHMSA has Training Modules now on line as part of the requirement for General Awareness out of 49 CFR 172.704. You can find those modules at:

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/training-modules>

Western Region's New Chief Investigator



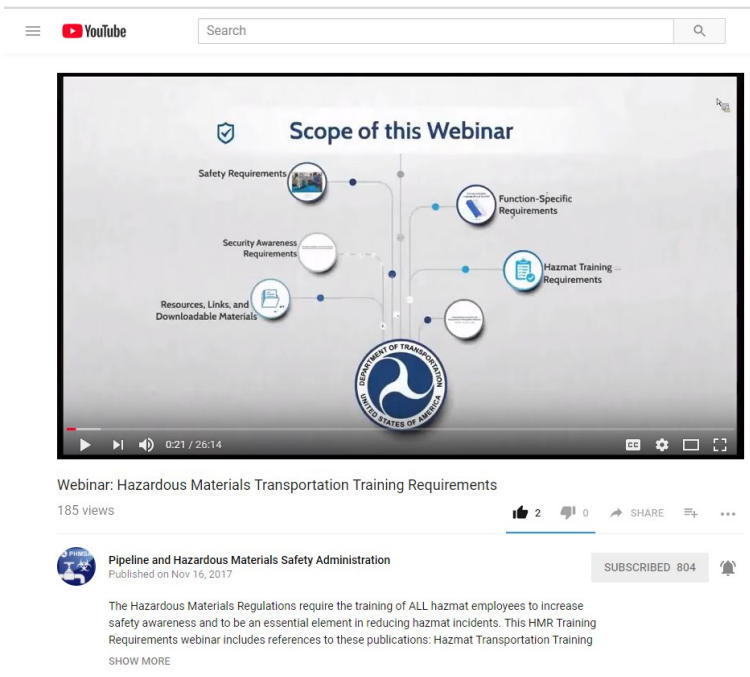
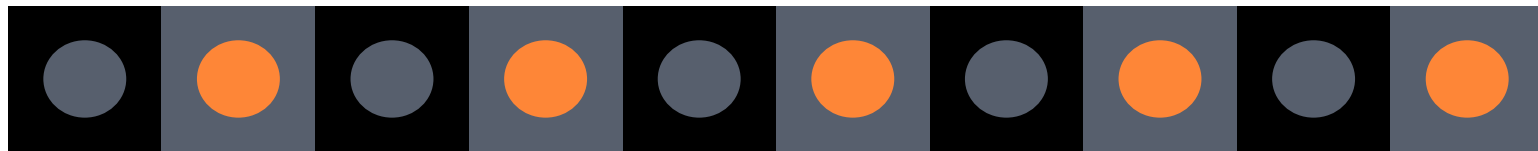
Kameron Walch
Chief Investigator,
Western Region

Mr. Kameron Walch brings more than 26 years of transportation inspection and enforcement experience to his position as Supervisory Compliance Investigator for the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA), Office of Hazardous Materials Safety Field Operations, Western Region Office.

Kameron joined PHMSA's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety in 2007. Throughout his

extensive career as an Investigator, Kameron has demonstrated excellence in all core aspects of hazardous materials inspections, enforcement, and safety assistance programs. He has exhibited outstanding dedication to public safety through intense inspection and investigation expertise. His efforts have significantly increased the Office of Hazardous Material Safety's ability to complete much needed inspections. In addition, his abilities have been vital to the Office of Hazardous Material Safety's mission. Mr. Walch has played an essential role in providing field training to investigators during their training progression. Prior to joining PHMSA, Kameron was a Motor Carrier Safety Specialist in Olympia, WA, with what is now the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). In his capacity with FMCSA he was responsible for the enforcement of the Hazardous Materials regulations. He developed, planned, and implemented training and technical assistance seminars concerning compliance with the Hazardous Materials regulations and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, which were presented to industry, state agencies, and associations members.





PHMSA's YouTube Video: Hazmat Training Requirements

On October 19, 2017, PHMSA's Outreach and Engagement Team conducted its first live webinar. This webinar reached more than 400+ participants. PHMSA's first webinar topic was chosen due to the high number of negative inspection results for companies who ship or carry hazardous materials day-to-day. The topic was: **Hazardous Materials Training Requirements**. PHMSA inspectors write some form of non-compliant action against companies for such things as not having training, poor training, and/or improper documenting of their training program.

Check out the video and see where your company may be lacking in proper hazardous materials training. Even if you hire a third-party, this video has tips on ensuring you are getting everything you are expecting.

Hazardous Materials Training Requirements YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/wDSMEruhtKA>

or go to our website:

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/training-requirements-industry>

While there, be sure to subscribe to PHMSA's YouTube channel as more webinars will be recorded and placed there in the future.

Did You Know?

PHMSA has its very own on-line CFR tool for looking up regulations for hazardous materials transportation.

The oCFR tool is an interactive web-based application that allows users to navigate with a single click between all content connected to a HMR citation. The oCFR includes tools to sort, filter, and export search results. Besides providing the regulated community with a new way to access documents, the system also provides additional tools to make it easier to understand the status of documents and identify recent rulemakings that may have impacted the documents. Also, the oCFR tool includes a separate tab for the Hazardous Materials Table (HMT) and Appendices. This tab provides PHMSA's first database version of the HMT as well as tables of hazardous substances in reportable quantities and marine pollutants. The tables include dynamic search, sort, and export capabilities.

You can access the oCFR at:

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/standards-rulemaking/hazmat/phmsas-online-cfr-ocfr>



Lithium Batteries and the Holidays

The gift-giving holiday is almost upon us. 'Tis the season, so they say. But with it, brings a surprising new twist on product safety, home safety, and hazardous materials in transporta-

tion. Yes, those wonderful yet potentially hazardous little bricks of power that seem to be in everything these days: lithium batteries. As integrated and normal in everyday society as shoes, these potential fire hazards are somewhat of a menace in transportation.

Hover board battery fire incidences were all over the news this time last year and the year before. Check out just one of the articles here:

<https://www.cnet.com/news/why-are-hoverboards-exploding-and-catching-fire/>



Hover board batteries are not the only items these days that have succumbed to poor manufacturing processes and/or quality control. See an article here on the Samsung Galaxy Note 7 recall and subsequent banning by all airlines due to the hazard:

<http://www.techradar.com/news/samsung-galaxy-note-7-battery-fires-heres-why-they-exploded>

Please be aware that lithium batteries are considered a hazardous material in transportation. If you need to send back an item to a company, please be sure to reach out to whom you ordered your product and ask about any regulations regarding the return of your electronic item accompanied by a lithium battery or contact PHMSA's Hazmat Info Center from page 1 of this newsletter

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

to ensure you are sending it safely and correctly.

Be sure to check out the National Fire Protection Agency's (NFPA) Tip Sheet on Lithium Battery Safety for Consumers as an attachment to this newsletter.

Howard "Skip" Elliott Sworn in as PHMSA's New Administrator

Howard "Skip" Elliott was sworn in as Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) by Secretary Elaine L. Chao this week at U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters.



Elliott joins PHMSA following his recent retirement from CSX Transportation in Jacksonville, FL, where he served as Vice President of Public Safety, Health, Environment, and Security. Elliott's portfolio at CSX included hazardous materials, transportation safety, homeland security, railroad policy, crisis management, environmental compliance and operations, occupational health management, and continuity of business operations.

Elliott has more than 40 years of experience in the boardroom, on Capitol Hill, and in state houses and city halls and is a leading advocate in developing and implementing computer-based tools to assist emergency response officials, first responders, and homeland security personnel in preparing for and responding to railroad hazmat and security incidents.

Elliott has earned honors from a number of institutions and is a recipient of the Association of American Railroads' (AAR) prestigious Holden-Proefrock award for lifetime achievement in hazardous materials transportation safety. Elliott has served on the AAR's Risk Management Working Committee and its Security Committee, and is a member of the American Society of Industrial Security and the FBI-DHS Domestic Security Alliance Council.

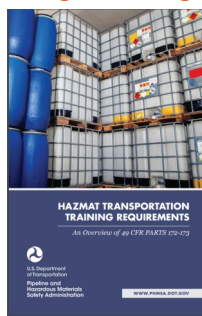
Skip earned a double major in English and Forensic Studies at Indiana University, and a Master of Science from Columbia Southern University.

Outreach and Engagement's Publications

The Outreach and Engagements' Training Branch develops materials that make it easier to understand and comply with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). Some publications enhance general understanding of the regulations, while others focus on specific training niches. See our list of hazardous materials transportation training publications below. We also offer training videos and interactive CD-ROMS that are designed to help the regulated community meet the training requirements set forth in the HMR.

Below are some examples of guidance materials published by PHMSA to assist the public in the realm of hazardous materials in transportation. You can access all publications at:

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/publications>



Lithium Ion Battery Safety for Consumers



Lithium ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. Take care when using them. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed or on a couch.
- Keep batteries at room temperature.
- Do not place batteries in direct sunlight or keep them in hot vehicles.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.



Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice the problems.

- odor
- change in color
- too much heat
- change in shape
- leaking
- odd noises



If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.
- Lithium ion batteries should be placed in a sealed metal container.

Photo: Safety tip sheet for consumers on lithium ion batteries from the NFPA.

For this media advisory and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

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
<http://hazmat.dot.gov>



Knowing your propane or Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder is very important to your safety and those around you. This past winter, a woman was tragically killed due to 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.

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 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.