



Our Neighborhoods

Citizens, government and industry working to promote public understanding and involvement in chemical risk management

Are Railroads Doing Enough To Ensure Security for the Public?

Did you know that more than 40% of all inter-city freight is transported by rail, including 67% of all coal used in coal-fired power plants? Additionally, due to the increasing dangers of over-road transportation, an increasing number of chemicals are also transported by rail. The 9-11 Commission report stated that "surface transportation systems such as railroads and mass transit remain hard to protect because they are so accessible and extensive."

The railroad industry responded to the 9-11 Commission's assertion by developing a program to "fix holes" in the rail system. Some of the initial fixes included:

- ▶ Closing gaps in fencing
- ▶ Improving facility lighting
- ▶ Installing blast-resistant trash bins
- ▶ Installing close-circuit television cameras
- ▶ Posting signs to educate riders
- ▶ Emphasizing the responsibility of the individual rider.

Rail security is typically separated into freight and passenger. Passenger rail is vulnerable because it is most often located in densely populated cities with numerous stops, allowing for easy movement and escape. Freight rail is vulnerable primarily because it is the mode of transportation for over half of the hazardous waste in the U.S.

Additionally, in order for freight rail to remain a viable means of transportation, it must compete with over road and air transportation, making it cost prohibitive to impose airport-type security measures. To date, the majority of the security located at individual stations centers around law enforcement-related security measures as opposed to counterterrorism. On May 20, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued Security Directives

requiring protective measures to be implemented by passenger rail operations. The mandate measures cover a broad range of security issues and provide flexibility to meet the specific needs of each rail operator. The directives require railroads to take a number of steps, including:

- ▶ Rail operators must designate coordinators to enhance security-related communication with the TSA.
- ▶ Passengers and employees will be asked to report unattended property or suspicious behavior.
- ▶ At certain locations, operators will be required to remove trash receptacles, except clear plastic or bomb-resistant containers.
- ▶ When needed, canine explosive teams may be utilized to screen passenger baggage, terminals, and trains.
- ▶ Facility inspections will be conducted by rail operators for suspicious or unattended items.
- ▶ Rail operators will ensure that security is at appropriate levels consistent with the DHS established level.

Although the railroads and the DHS agree that 100% security cannot be guaranteed, they believe that these measures take critical steps toward increased protection for riders, operators, and residents living within proximity to both rail lines and stations.



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Please call these
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industry contacts if you have questions
about chemicals in your neighborhood.



TechSolve Lends A Helping Hand To Local Industry

The highly competitive nature of industry makes it increasingly difficult for smaller businesses to remain compliant with regulatory requirements while still making a profit. In 1982, the City of Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, the University of Cincinnati, and a few large local industries formed a consortium to explore ways in which to improve the competitiveness of local manufacturing. Their efforts gave birth to TechSolve, a non-profit organization consisting of engineers, scientists and business specialists coming together to tackle the task of assisting businesses in the identification and implementation of process changes that will make them more successful.

In 1998, TechSolve was honored with the Governor's Excellence in Pollution Prevention Award for assisting over 125 regional companies in waste reduction.

Today, TechSolve is an Ohio Department of Development Ohio Thomas Edison Technology Center, giving them access to a greater degree of financial support through awards and grants.



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2008 Alliance Steering Team

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If you are interested in participating on the Steering Team in any of the open positions, please contact Kim Lahman, ACS Coordinator, at (513) 612-3074.

TechSolve focuses on helping businesses sustain best environmental policies in order to maintain regulatory compliance, achieve cost reduction, and provide a safer work environment.

For more information on TechSolve please refer to their web site at www.techsolve.org.



Our Neighborhoods Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Alliance for Chemical Safety (ACS), a Greater Cincinnati non-profit organization dedicated to promoting chemical safety. ACS sponsors monthly public meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Please visit our web site at www.acs-online.org or call us at (513) 612-3074 for meeting locations and times.

Read me for neighborhood news on chemical safety!

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