

Hazmat Transport Security

Handout

The Department of Transportation requires that employees be trained to be aware of the security risks associated with transporting hazardous materials.

- Because you transport hazardous materials, you should be aware that terrorists might use these products to cause death or destruction.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify terrorists easily—they can look like anyone else—but you should be alert and report suspicious behavior to a supervisor.

- You should never give information about a shipment to anyone unless you can identify him or her and understand his or her need to know.

Shippers of hazardous materials need to practice security measures such as the following:

- Storing hazardous materials in areas protected by alarms and surveillance cameras into which only authorized personnel are allowed
- Performing frequent audits and inspections to be sure all material is accounted for properly
- Developing emergency plans in coordination with local fire and homeland security planners

Carriers should choose their route carefully considering safety factors.

- Selecting the shortest safe route possible
- Trying to avoid high population areas and rush hour traffic
- Using rest stops with good lighting where drivers can maintain visual contact with their vehicle while getting something to eat
- Avoiding routes with tunnels and bridges, if possible

Drivers should be trained in safety precautions such as the following:

- Inspecting their rig and cargo before leaving the facility and again at rest stops
- Keeping their rig and cargo locked and secure at all times
- Never picking up hitchhikers or talking to strangers about their cargo
- Reporting any delays to their dispatcher and to the designated receiver
- Knowing what to do in case of an emergency such as a leak or spill

Receivers of hazardous materials have to follow security precautions as well, including:

- Inspecting the carrier's identification, shipping records, and materials on delivery
- Reporting any differences between the material and the accompanying paperwork

Everyone involved with transporting hazardous materials plays an important role in ensuring that proper security methods are followed.