

## Rail Safety Inspector - Hazardous Materials

The State Rail Safety Inspection Program ensures compliance with federal and state safety regulations to help reduce the number of rail accidents. This important program ensures that railroad tracks and equipment are operating safely within Minnesota. MnDOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations currently employs one Rail Hazardous Materials Inspector.

### What does the rail hazardous materials inspector do?

The Rail Hazardous Materials Inspector conducts inspections of railroad companies and shippers of hazardous materials by rail.

For railroad companies, this includes physically inspecting tank cars and other bulk packages such as portable tanks and hoppers containing hazardous materials, as well as intermodal containers that contain non-bulk packages of hazmat. Railroad paperwork such as hazmat waybills and position in train lists are also checked for compliance.

For shippers, this includes inspecting hazmat training records, registration, track protection, security plans, bills of lading, procedures, hazmat shipping documents, and occasionally packages prepared for shipment.

### What are some important things to look for?

- Non-accident releases, loose closures and other defects on tank cars/other bulk packages
- Improperly secured non-bulk packages
- Improperly positioned hazmat cars
- Bad train lists or waybills
- Inadequate hazmat training

### Why is this work important?

- Helps to ensure safety by preventing and mitigating hazardous materials incidents that could lead to property damage and potential harm to individuals and communities
- Ensures that the rail transportation community is aware of federal and state safety regulations
- Helps to improve the response time to hazmat incidents should they occur
- Protects workers from job hazards such as hazmat exposure or track protection issues

