TIH materials are essential to the economy and national health, [and] rail movement of these materials is extremely safe.

– U.S. Department of Transportation

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCLUDE TOXIC INHALATION HAZARD (TIH) MATERIALS, WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR:

- Health Care
- Farming
- Manufacturing
- Renewable Energy Production
- Water Treatment
- Telecommunications

IMPROVING RAIL SAFETY REQUIRES A COOPERATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

The Best Way to Prevent a TIH Release is to Prevent Rail Accidents

The primary causes of rail accidents are track defects, equipment defects and human error. These incidents can be reduced by detecting and preventing broken rails, improving grade crossings, and installing collision avoidance technologies.

If an Accident Occurs, Strong Tank Cars Can Provide Additional Protection

TIH shippers are committed to continuously improving our already strong safety record. Current tank cars must adhere to strict Federal standards. Because chemical companies own or lease the tank cars, our industry partnered with railroads, rail car manufacturers and the government to establish new standards in 2009 that require newly constructed TIH materials tank cars to have increased side and head impact puncture resistance. Together, we are also developing science-based performance standards for future cars as part of broader efforts to enhance overall hazmat rail safety.

Finally, Railroads and Shippers Maintain Effective Emergency Response Plans

In the extremely unlikely event of an accident, railroads and shippers are prepared to rapidly respond. As part of this preparation, TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) promotes the safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials and helps communities prepare and respond to potential incidents. TRANSCAER® involves volunteers from chemical and transportation industries, as well as emergency responders and the government.

HAZMAT SHIPMENTS

- NON-HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, “The comprehensive Federal regulatory framework applicable to the rail transportation of hazardous materials, including TIH materials, effectively mitigates safety and security risks.” This comprehensive Federal regulatory framework addresses all facets of safety and security including employee training and fatigue, track maintenance, routing decisions, and construction and operation of rail tank cars.