

DotMotusCompliance Inc · Complimentary Compliance Document

In-Transit Hazmat Incident Response, Quick Reference Card

Cab-laminate companion for HazMat Driver Training

49 CFR §177.854 · §171.15 (immediate notice) · §171.16 (Form DOT F 5800.1, 30 days)

When something goes wrong. Work the steps in order. Steps 1 to 3 are life-safety FIRST, fix nothing else until they are done. Steps 4 to 6 are notification. Step 7 is documentation. Carry this card in the cab; you will not have time to read the regs during an incident.

Step 1: Stop and protect

- Pull off the road if safely possible. Set the parking brake. Turn off the engine if leak/fire is suspected.
- Activate four-way flashers. Deploy three reflective triangles per §392.22 (10, 100, 200 feet, adjusted for traffic direction).
- Stay upwind, uphill, upstream. Move away from the vehicle if a release is visible or suspected.
- Do NOT smoke. Eliminate ignition sources within 50 feet (§397.13).

Step 2: Get the ERG and identify

- Pull the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook from the cab.
- Find the UN/NA ID number on the shipping paper or placard. ERG yellow pages – orange guide – green initial-isolation distance if PIH.
- Read the orange guide first responders will use, set your expectations for what's coming.

Step 3: Initial isolation

- Use the ERG distances. PIH materials may require 1/2-mile isolation downwind.
- Keep bystanders well clear. Direct foot and vehicle traffic away.
- Do NOT attempt offensive response. You are trained to OSHA HAZWOPER First Responder Awareness only, your role is recognize-evacuate-isolate-notify.

Step 4: Call 911

Life-safety threats first. ALWAYS 911 before any other notification. Give them: your exact location, what you're carrying (UN number + proper shipping name), what happened, casualties, the 24-hour emergency number from your shipping papers.

Step 5: Call CHEMTREC

CHEMTREC 1-800-424-9300 24-hour
emergency response

National Response Center 1-800-424-8802
\$171.15 immediate notice

Give CHEMTREC: your name; carrier name; phone you can be reached at; cargo (UN # + proper shipping name + quantity); nature of the incident; location; casualties; weather. CHEMTREC will conference in the shipper and the manufacturer if needed.

Step 6: §171.15 immediate-notice triggers: call the NRC

Notify the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 as soon as practical (within 12 hours of any of these). The carrier (your DER, dispatch, or compliance manager) makes the call, but the driver provides the facts.

✓	A person is killed
✓	A person is hospitalized as a direct result of the hazmat
✓	Property damage of \$500 or more (cleanup and damage combined)
✓	Evacuation of the general public for one hour or more
✓	One or more major transportation arteries closed for one hour or more
✓	Operational flight pattern of an aircraft altered
✓	Fire, breakage, spillage, or contamination involving radioactive (Class 7) material
✓	Fire, breakage, spillage, or contamination involving Cat A infectious substance (UN2814, UN2900)
✓	Release of a marine pollutant of 119 gallons / 882 pounds or more
✓	Situation that, in your judgment, should be reported even if not on this list

Step 7: §171.16 written report (Form DOT F 5800.1)

The carrier files a written incident report on Form DOT F 5800.1 within 30 days of the incident if any §171.15 trigger above applied OR if there was any release of a hazardous material from a package. Driver's role: preserve evidence, take photos, save shipping papers, write down everything while it's fresh, what time, what you saw, what you smelled, who arrived first, what they said.

Step 8: Internal notifications

- Dispatch / supervisor
- DER (your name on the DER Information Form)
- Shipper of record (CHEMTREC may already have done this)
- Carrier compliance / safety manager

On a separate sheet: write down EVERYTHING

As soon as it's safe. Memory degrades fast in the next 24 hours. Write down:

- Date, time, exact GPS or mile-marker location
- Weather: temperature, wind direction, precipitation, visibility
- What you saw, in time order, before during and after
- Who arrived first, in what order, what they said and what they did
- Any photographs you were able to take safely
- Any statements you made to law enforcement or first responders

Numbers: fill these in BEFORE your first trip

My carrier's name

My DER's name and phone

Dispatch 24-hour line

Carrier compliance manager

My shipper's 24-hr emergency #

My USDOT number

My tractor unit #

Disclaimer. *This document is provided as a compliance aid for customers of DotMotusCompliance Inc. It is not legal advice and does not certify compliance with any federal, state, or local regulation. The hazmat employer or motor carrier is the legally responsible party for compliance and recordkeeping. Always verify the current text of any cited regulation against the eCFR before relying on it. This card supports but does not replace the \$177.854 in-transit response and \$171.15 / \$171.16 reporting rules. Verify the current text against the eCFR before relying on it.*

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