University of Wyoming

Training Bulletin



Risk Management & Safety

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SHIPPING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: **Rules, Roles and Responsibilities**

In 1996 a graduate student at a large university illegally shipped a package of hazardous materials via FedEx. Because of the Value Jet crash that year the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) was under heightened awareness. They intercepted the package and fined FedEx \$10,000. FedEx lawyers immediately sued the university. The next day a harsh letter from the Federal DOT was delivered to the university.

The DOT asserted that the faculty member was the responsible party, even though the graduate student had acted without the professor's prior knowledge. The faculty member was held liable and had to pay the fine. The professor appealed the fine, asserting that the department should pay the fine, but was unsuccessful. A negotiated settlement reduced the original fine to \$5000, after the university promised to develop a hazmat shipping program and better training for faculty, staff, and students.

Since the events of 9/11/2001 there has been an increased emphasis on the safety, security and regulations of hazardous materials transportation. In this light, the university and affected individual employees need to have



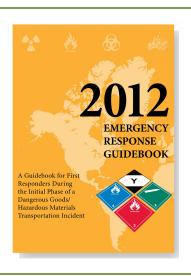
a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in this process.

Value Jet Crash:

This DC-9 aircraft crashed in the Everglades outside of Miami on May 11, 1996, due to a fire initiated by improperly packaged and shipped solid oxygen generators in the forward cargo compartment ..

What is an ERG?

ERG is short for Emergency Response Guidebook. It is an invaluable tool for shippers, carriers, and hazardous materials drivers. The ERG contains guides for what to do in the event of a spill or leak. Over 3000 chemicals are covered from Acrolein to Zinc Dust. UWPD requires that a page from this guide accompanies any haz-mat shipment. The RMMC can provide these pages and further shipping advise. Come learn more at the D.O.T. hazmat class.



Register for RMSO classes

- www.uwyo.edu/risk/safety
- call us at 766-3277
- e-mail uwehs@uwyo.edu

D.O.T. Hazardous Materials Shipping class topics

(DOT_49 CFR 172 Subpart H)

Security Awareness; Identification & **Classification; Shipping Papers; The** Hazardous Materials Table; Labeling & Marking; Packaging; Placarding; and Haz Mat Emergency Response

Who should attend?

Required for employees who transport, ship, load, unload, or store hazardous materials incident to transport or who supervise personnel who do any of these things. (See article at the right). Personnel in these UW areas should consider attending:

- **Chemical Stockrooms** •
- Faculty, Graduate Students, and Lab personnel who package, ship, or transport hazmat for research
- **Physical Plant Stores**
- **Regulated Materials Management** Center (RMMC)
- Shipping & Receiving

Hazardous materials are liquids or solids that are: flammable, explosive, reactive, toxic, corrosive, infectious, radioactive, noxious, oxidizing (evolves oxygen upon decomposition), pressurized in cylinders.

DOT Hazmat training

Classes scheduled by RMSO as needed

Refresher DOT is available on-line

Find the latest information on www.uwyo.edu/risk/safety

