

Crude Oil Advanced Tracking Act

The use of rail to ship crude oil and other class-3 flammable liquids is surging, as is the risk to communities along the routes.

Tragedy has struck all across the country. A train carrying crude oil derailed on June 3, 2016 in Mosier, Oregon, spilling 42,000 gallons of crude in the Columbia River Gorge, and sparking a large fire. In Casselton, North Dakota, an oil train derailment prompted the evacuation of thousands of people. A train derailment in Mount Carbon, West Virginia unleashed a huge fireball, destroyed a home and threatened the local water supply. The list of disasters grows every year.

Unfortunately, too often, the affected communities learn about the risk of crude oil shipments only when disaster strikes. Communities need to be forewarned to better prepare and respond when there is an accident. Timely information combined with increased preparation can help communities act quickly and decisively in the face of a disaster, minimize loss of property, and prevent death and injury.

The Crude Oil Advanced Tracking Act:

- makes it mandatory for railroads to share the manifest information of dangerous trains with local emergency responders in every community through which their materials will travel;
- makes available \$15 million in High Hazard Rail Shipments Preparedness and Training Grants to support the development, improvement or implementation of emergency plans and training for communities through which crude oil trains regularly pass; and
- Makes available \$25 million of financial assistance to support local projects that reduce risk or help protect communities.

Local communities need to know when railroads are sending dangerous hazards through so that they are able to protect the safety of their residents, schools and businesses.