

Preparedness and Response: Protecting the Freight Rail Network

America's railroads are a critical component of our national infrastructure, moving the people, raw materials and finished goods that make modern life possible. That is why the nation's freight rail industry works with safety experts, government organizations and security partners to ensure the network remains resilient.

Because the private 140,000-mile rail network is so huge – reaching from coast-to-coast – resiliency comes in many forms. This includes training first responders to prepare for the unlikely event of a rail incident to using the latest technology to monitor the entire network against physical, cyber and natural disaster threats.

In fact, the rail industry collaborates closely every day with industry and government partners to keep the network safe and secure. These include, but are not limited to, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

At a Glance

- **Bridge Safety**
Freight railroads annually spend billions of dollars on bridge safety, employ expert bridge safety personnel and inspect the more than 61,000 Class I railroad bridges in the United States.
- **First Responder Training and Emergency Response**
Freight railroads help train tens of thousands of emergency responders each year with programs and outreach efforts, including programs at the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI).
- **Community Planning**
Railroads collaborate with first responders and other authorities and partners to swiftly and effectively carry out their emergency response plans.
- **Physical and Cybersecurity**
For nearly 20 years, freight and passenger railroads have worked daily with government agencies and security, law enforcement and intelligence professionals to monitor and protect the nearly 140,000-mile rail network.
- **Natural Disasters**
Railroads work together to prepare for and respond to weather threats to minimize network impact, swiftly restore service for customers and help communities rebuild.