

# Railroad Workers Keep Critical Goods Moving During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve across the globe, freight railroads and their dedicated workforce are continue to maintain the flow of goods necessary to preserve public health and sustain families — such as delivering chlorine-based disinfectants for water, enabling e-commerce, transporting food and moving energy products to support electricity demands.

After all, America's freight railroads play a critical role in nearly every industrial, wholesale, retail and resource-based sector of our economy. For example, railroads typically originate roughly 60,000 carloads of food and agricultural products per week. Additionally, most products sold at retail providers such as Target or Walmart get there with the help of rail intermodal.

In maintaining operations, railroads remain focused on safeguarding the health and safety of the rail workforce while also delivering the goods Americans need to weather this unprecedented event. Some of the critical goods railroads and their workers are moving as the nation confronts the COVID-19 pandemic include:

- Chemicals required for medicines and food packaging
- Chlorine-based disinfectants for treating water
- Energy products for generating electricity
- Fertilizer for growing crops
- Food products from orange juice to frozen vegetables
- Grain and corn for cattle feed
- Municipal waste
- Oil for heating and gasoline
- Retail products that end up on store shelves, such as toilet paper and cleaning supplies
- Wheat used by bakeries to make bread/pasta that are increasingly in need

Taken together, it is clear why railroads are considered critical infrastructure by the federal government and are called upon to operate continuously to help ensure human health, safety and economic security. It is during times like these we are especially grateful for the roughly 150,000 employees keeping the rail network running. Our diverse and skilled employees are dedicated to ensuring railroads remain a critical link to American businesses and society.

