

CHEMICALS IN TRANSIT: BE PREPARED

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Thousands of hazardous substances crisscross the country daily and accidents will happen, so you need to plan for a possible catastrophe in your community

The truck parked next to you at the diner bears a placard numbered 1255; the one that whizzes past on the highway is marked 2186. As they're stored, shipped, stored again, and used, hazardous materials wend their way through virtually every community in the United States. About 10% of the trucks on interstate highways carry some form of hazardous substance, thousands of shipments a year go by water, and millions of tons go by rail.

Hazardous substances, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, are materials "capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce." Although the depart-/continued