

JOB AID

**HAZMAT Transportation Part 7:**  
**Security Awareness**

# HAZMAT Transportation Part 7: Security Awareness

Hazardous materials are essential, but they can also be deadly weapons in the hands of a terrorist.

## **Security Requirements**

People who may transport or distribute hazardous materials must take general security awareness training, security plan training and any other hazardous material training required by a location. Companies should train employees to recognize and report abnormal behavior.

## **Security Plans**

Companies who transport or distribute HAZMAT must have **security plans** that cover topics such as personnel issues, how to limit access to hazardous materials, and how to ensure the safety and security of shipments. Security plans must be in writing and kept up to date.

Facility security plans should account for:

- Area surrounding the facility
- Hazardous materials present
- Physical barriers to entry
- Means of detecting intrusion attempts
- History of unauthorized entries
- Regulatory requirements

## **Potential Targets and Methods**

Potential targets for hazardous material terrorism may include the environment or human-made targets, such as:

- Sensitive infrastructure like bridges, tunnels and dams
- Locations for public gatherings, venues, historic monuments and skyline landmarks
- Stationary targets like chemical plants, tank farms and loading areas
- Public utilities such as water, electrical and natural gas plants

Terrorists may be external and able to patiently blend in, or internal (such as disgruntled employees). Be suspicious of anyone around hazardous materials and **ALWAYS GUARD PRODUCTS AND CARGO!**

Check loading orders and other documents. Be aware that people often steal cargo by using forged documentation including bills of lading, certifications or personal identification. Write the driver, captain, pilot or conductor identification number on shipping orders or bills of lading and have them print and sign their names.

## **Planning a Safe Route**

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE MOST VULNERABLE WHEN IN TRANSIT.** Work with route coordinators anytime you have concerns about a route. When planning a route:

- Take the shortest route possible
- Only take approved routes
- Avoid high-population areas
- Avoid highway routes through tunnels and over bridges
- Ensure there is good lighting at ports and stops
- Maintain visual contact with your vehicle, aircraft or ship at stops
- Time your routes to avoid high or peak traffic times

## Protecting People and Cargo

To keep people and cargo secure:

- Be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious or unusual activity to a supervisor or the appropriate security officials for the port, railway, airport or highway
- Complete pre-trip inspections and storage area inspections and inventories
- Don't pick up passengers or hitchhikers
- Follow attendance, transit and stopping company policies, rules and regulations
- Know your customers (report lack of knowledge, unusual purchases and odd behavior to supervisors or EHS managers)
- Report estimated time of arrival (ETA), route, layovers, delays and modal transfers
- Secure means of transport, cargo and storage areas (keep everything locked, restrict access and have a single point-of-entry)
- Never talk about cargo or destinations where an unauthorized person could overhear you, including on a cell phone or radio
- Keep storage areas locked and conduct regular inspections of them
- Write the driver, pilot, captain or conductor license or identification number on shipping orders or bills of lading and having them print and sign their names
- Be aware of current government alerts, advisories and warnings regarding threats

## Carrier Security Responsibilities

Hazardous material carriers should:

- Install global positioning system (GPS) tracking
- Check in with employees at established points or times
- Report lost or stolen shipments or equipment to appropriate supervisors, federal government entities, such as the Department of Transportation (DOT), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Response Center (NRC), Homeland Defense (HLD) or Coast Guard, and state and local governments
- Provide employees with a 24-hour hotline to call for reporting suspicions or incidents
- Use tamper-proof alarms and locks to secure cargo
- Train employees about their security responsibilities
- Inspect security equipment to ensure it will not fail

## Identify Vulnerabilities

Companies can identify vulnerabilities by using vulnerability assessments and security checklists. Companies should only share the results of their vulnerability analyses with people who need to know and should keep assessment results in a secure place.

Companies and drivers should be aware of increase their level of security when:

- A terrorist attack occurs
- The government begins military actions in foreign countries
- Government officials declare a heightened state of alert