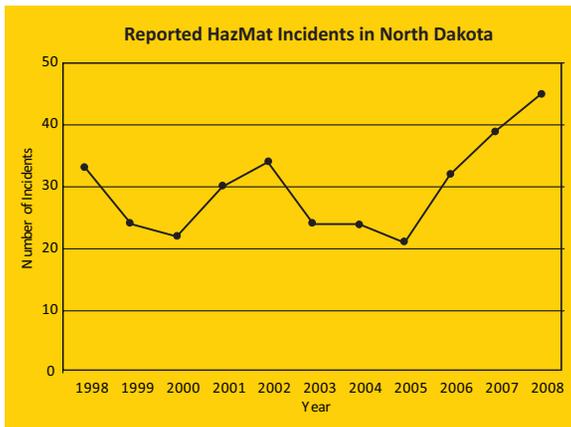




## Hazardous Materials Transportation

Hazardous materials are commonly moved through North Dakota by rail, truck, and pipeline as a part of our national distribution system. The state also has numerous businesses that utilize or manufacture goods in the hazardous product and waste classes. While serious incidents with these materials are not common, the figure below shows that incidents do occur every year. Safety experts suggest that communities consider a placarded truck route for hazard materials to maximize response capabilities and to minimize exposure risk. The U.S. DOT Office of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is the national repository of both non-radioactive hazardous materials (NRHM) and Radioactive (RAM) routes. The FMCSA offers guidance to consider factors such as population density, type of highway, emergency response capabilities, terrain/environmental factors, and accident statistics in designating a local NRHM route. Preparedness with regard to rail and pipeline facilities are also valuable to public safety.



## Definitions

The following definitions were obtained from the Code of Federal Regulations which regulate the routing procedures discussed in this guide.

**FMCSA.** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, an agency within the US Department of Transportation.

**Hazardous Material.** A substance or material, including a hazardous substance, which has been determined by the US Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, or property when transported in commerce, and which has been so designated.

**NRHM.** A non radioactive hazardous material transported by motor vehicle in types and quantities which require placarding, pursuant to Table 1 or 2 of 49 CFR §172.504.

**Routing Agency.** The State highway agency or other State agency designated by the Governor of that State, or an agency designated by an Indian tribe, to supervise, coordinate, and approve the NRHM routing designations for that State or Indian tribe.

## Contact Info

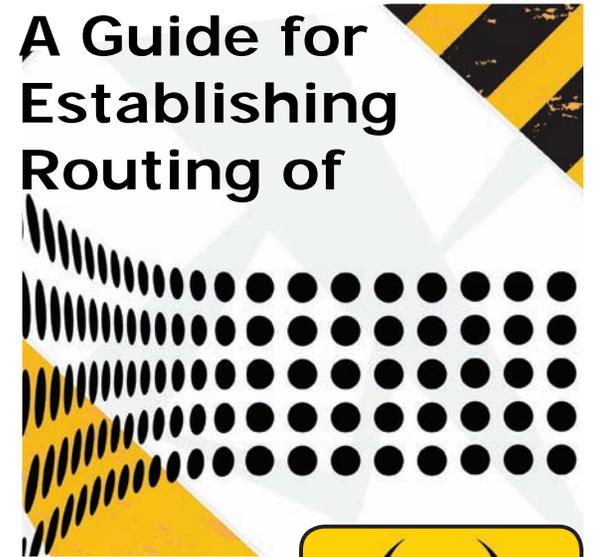
**Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Initiatives & Training**  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
(PHMSA)  
Phone: (202) 366-4900  
<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov>

**The National Hazardous Materials Route Registry**  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)  
Phone: (800) 832-5660  
<http://hazmat.fmcsa.dot.gov/nhmrr/index.asp>

**Haz-Chem Preparedness and Response Program**  
Ray DeBoer, NDDDES  
Phone: (800) 773-3259  
<http://www.nd.gov/des/planning/haz-chem/>

**North Dakota Maintenance Division Signing Section**  
Phone: (701) 328-2546  
<http://www.dot.nd.gov/public/>

## A Guide for Establishing Routing of



## Hazardous Materials Movements



Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute  
North Dakota State University

# Government Initiatives on Hazardous Materials

This increase in the transportation of hazardous materials has prompted action by government at the national and local levels to initiate measures to safeguard the general public and motorist on transportation routes.

## Examples of these initiatives:

### North Dakota State Legislative initiative

This initiative required the location of new Anhydrous Ammonia Facilities to be restricted from development within the corporate limits of existing communities. This legislative initiative experienced a high level of compliance within the region. However, this initiative, did not address the transporting of anhydrous ammonia within local communities, as generated by the distribution facility.

### The 1990 Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety Act

This national initiative resulted in the promulgation of federal regulations which established national standards and procedures that states, local and tribal governments must use when establishing, maintaining or enforcing highway routing designations for placarded non-radioactive hazardous materials.



## Procedure for Initiating and Implementing the Routing of Non-Radioactive Hazardous Materials (NRHM) on Local Transport

The Non-radioactive Hazardous Materials (NRHM) routing process establishes which roads may be used to transport certain hazardous materials. Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 397, Subpart C, authorizes a political subdivision of a state to establish NRHM route designations for roads and highways open to the public under the jurisdiction of the political subdivision.

The following is a listing of major items required by federal regulations for political subdivisions initiating NRHM routing proposals:

**Consultation with others.** Political subdivisions considering the establishment of a NRHM route shall make contact with the respective state routing agency, all adjacent political subdivisions, or adjacent states that may be affected by the proposed NRHM route.

**Public Input.** A political subdivision must conduct at least one public hearing on any proposed NRHM routing proposal.

**Route Analysis and proposal.** A political subdivision intending to establish a NRHM routing designation must fully consider and address in writing all of the federal standards listed in 49 CFR, paragraph 397.71(b) in the route determination process.

**Proposal Review.** Upon successful completion of the public hearing process and consultation with any affected adjacent governmental entities the request for NRHM routing designation should be forwarded to the State Routing Agency for final review and approval.

**Route Signing Requirements.** Upon approval of the routing designation the local political subdivision will need to develop a signing proposal as required to support the routing designation for traffic and submit them for approval to the State Routing Agency.

**Costs.** Generally all costs associated with the designation of hazard materials routing on a transportation link within a political subdivision are the responsibility of the governmental entity initiating the request.

