



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REPORT

The Hazardous Materials Report presents an analysis of the HM information collected on State crash report. At the scene of the crash it is determined if the vehicle was HM placarded, if the vehicle released HM and the type of HM released. The MCMIS Crash data indicates if HM was released from the cargo tank or compartment of the large truck or bus. Fuel spilled from the vehicle fuel tank is not counted, even though it is a HM.

Information for the three HM reports were tabulated using the total number of vehicles involved in crashes for the Nation and State for fatal and non-fatal crashes from the MCMIS database.

HM is any substance or material which has been determined by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce and which has been so designated under regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Most vehicles carrying HM are required by law to conspicuously display a placard indicating the class, type or the specific name of the HM cargo. In addition, vehicles transporting HM in tank cars, cargo tanks, or portable tanks are required to display the 4-digit hazardous materials number assigned to the specific material on placards or orange panels.

Definitions

Fatal crash - A crash where one or more persons dies within 30 days of the crash. The fatality does not have to occur at the scene of the crash. It includes any person involved in the crash, including pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as occupants of the passenger cars.

Non-fatal crash - A crash where one or more persons has non-fatal injuries requiring transportation by a vehicle for the purpose of obtaining immediate medical attention; or one or more of the vehicles were towed away from the scene due to "disabling damage". The towed vehicle need not be the truck or bus involved in the crash.

Table 1 presents an analysis of the vehicles involved in crashes and identifies if an HM Placard was displayed at the time of the crash.

Categories

HM Placard Not Present - An HM placard was not on the truck for non-fatal crashes. For fatal crashes the vehicle was not carrying HM.

HM Placard Present - An HM placard was on the truck for non-fatal crashes. For fatal crashes the vehicle was carrying hazardous material with or without a placard.

Unknown - All 'unknown' represent that it was not known whether the vehicle was carrying HM or not. The non-fatal unknown represents that it was unknown whether the vehicle was placarded.

Missing - All 'missing' represent a blank data field in FARS or MCMIS.

Table 2 presents an analysis of the vehicles with an HM Placard displayed at the time of the crash and identifies if hazardous material cargo was released.

Categories

NO - Indicates that no HM was released from the cargo tank or cargo compartment of the truck.

YES - Indicates that HM was released from the cargo tank or cargo compartment of the truck (not fuel spilled).

Missing - All 'missing' represent a blank data field in FARS or MCMIS.

Table 3 presents an analysis of the Hazardous Material Cargo released at the time of the crash.

Categories

Explosives - Dynamite, military explosives.

Gases - Propane, anhydrous ammonia.

Flammable Liquids - Gasoline, fuel oil.

Flammable Solids - Sterno.

Oxidizing Substances - Ammonium nitrate.

Poison & Infectious Substances - Laboratory waste.

Radioactive Material - Spent nuclear fuel.

Corrosives - Battery acid.

Miscellaneous Dangerous Goods - Hazardous waste that doesn't fit in other categories.

Missing - All 'missing' represent a blank data field in the MCMIS Crash data.

CAUTION: Although efforts have been made to provide the most accurate and complete MCMIS Crash data possible, data quality can vary from state to state. Please use caution when interpreting MCMIS crash data.