

## **Statement from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security:**

There was an internal delay at IDHS with respect to the first notification the agency received regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) order. This notification was not evaluated as efficiently as it could have been, and as a result, was not forwarded to the local responders as quickly as IDHS would have liked.

Since the initial delay, the evaluation process has been modified to avoid any future delays in getting this information into the hands of local emergency responders as quickly as possible. All subsequent notifications were evaluated using the new process and were forwarded to the appropriate personnel within days of IDHS receiving them.

Other circumstances also influenced the timing of the initial notification's release.

The first notification received by IDHS was not what the agency was expecting, so there were internal questions about whether this was the notification required under the U.S. DOT order. Once the documents were confirmed and determinations made about who should receive the documents, they were sent to the affected local public safety communities. Also, because the documents are highly sensitive and to be closely held within the public safety community, they had to be carefully evaluated regarding which agencies had a need to know.

To further assist local agencies, IDHS conducted conference calls to explain the nature of the documents and answer any questions.

I reiterate the following information from my previous email because it fits again in this context:

Hazardous materials are regularly transported on Indiana's rails and roadways. Local responders are aware of the potential for hazardous material releases, breaches or fires, and the response and mitigation required. For years, the Indiana Firefighter Training System, in its regular curriculum, has provided and continues to provide instruction for hazardous material emergencies. Local responders continue to demonstrate, through training, their knowledge and expertise in handling these types of situations. In calendar year 2013, hazardous material courses were the most well attended of any training sessions offered by the Indiana Firefighter Training System.

The agency has been in contact with those in the public safety community who are affected. The transport of the material was explained, and we have not heard any direct negative reports. The local responders exhibited knowledge of the material being transported on railways through their counties, and were thankful for the agency's communication.