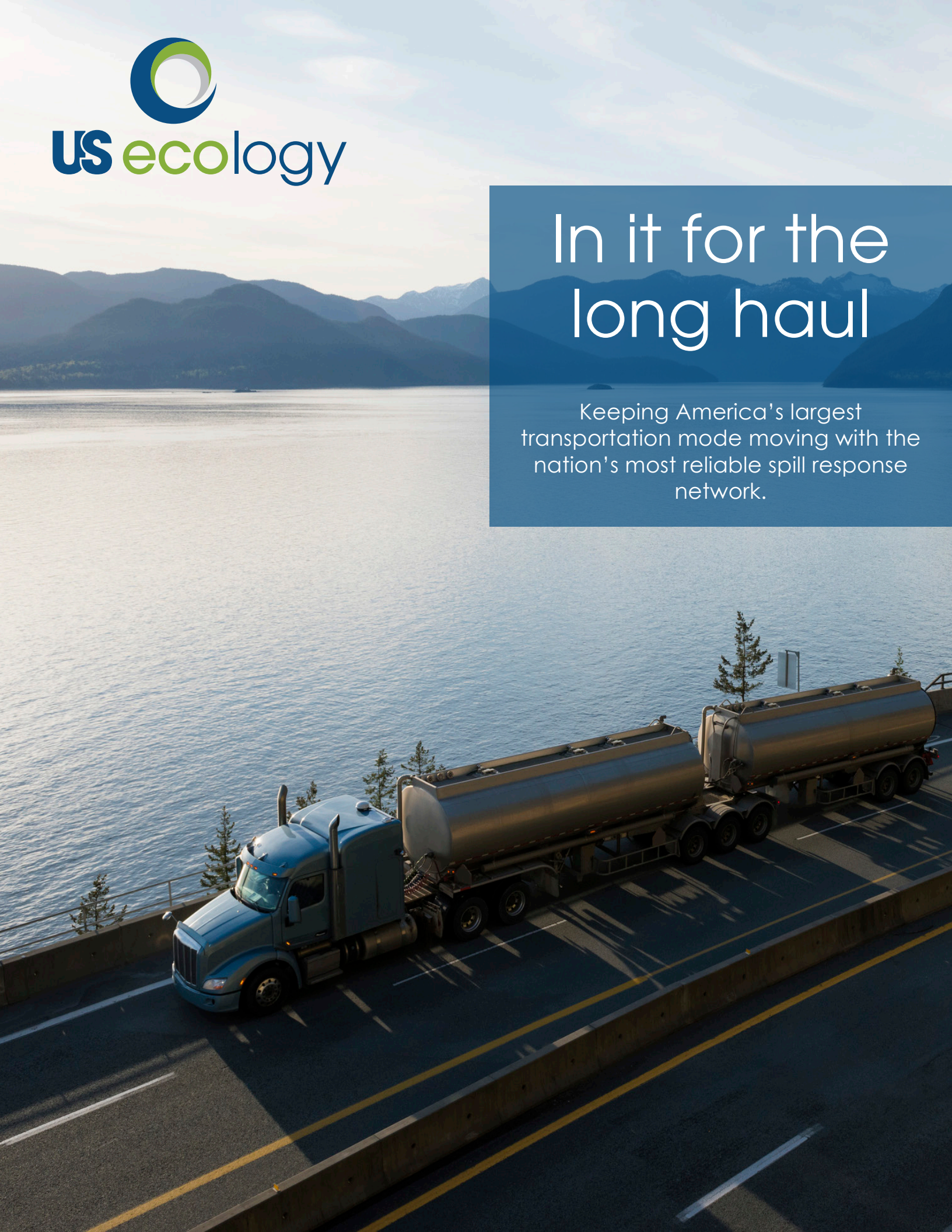
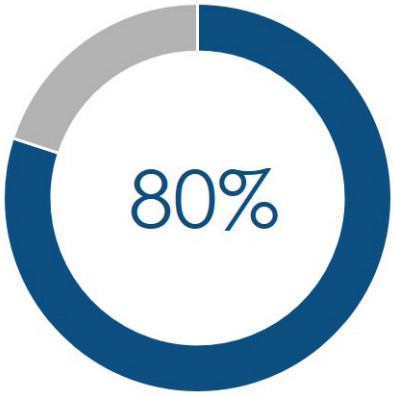
US ecology

In it for the long haul

Keeping America's largest transportation mode moving with the nation's most reliable spill response network.

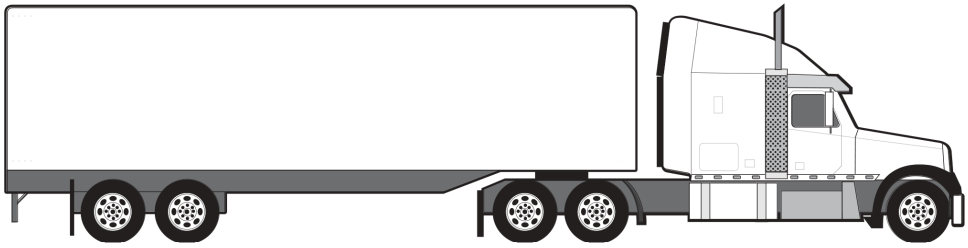


The United States commercial trucking industry provides for a traditional yet dynamic way of moving goods, it remains in high demand by consumers and continues to be the backbone of America's economy.



Research by the American Trucking Association (ATA) states that **trucking represented over 80% of the US freight bill in 2019** and generated almost $792 billion.[1]

That's more than the GDP of 167 nations.[2]



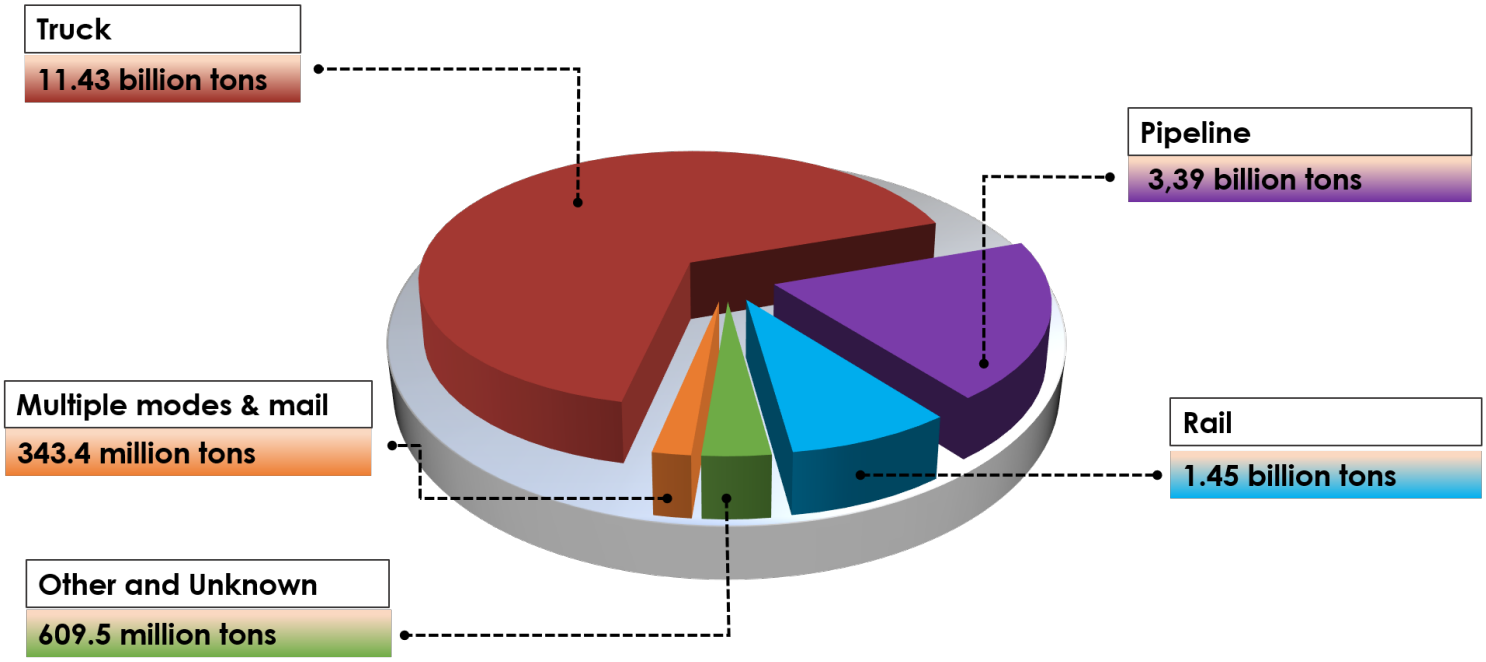
The coronavirus pandemic shrunk the global economy and created a colossal collapse in revenue for many industries in 2020. The trucking industry however experienced a heightened demand due to an acute increase in online sales resulting from a rapid shift in purchasing patterns from in-person shopping to e-commerce.

E-commerce sales increased 37.1% from Q3 2019 to 2020[3], a trend that is expected to continue in the coming years.

Throughout the pandemic, the trucking industry has played a vital role in keeping supply chains afloat. From delivering goods to end consumers to supporting B2B transactions, it continues to be the leading mode of freight across the nation.

Nearly 11.5 billion tons of goods and materials were transported across the country via truck in 2020 alone.

U.S Transportation Quantities by Mode in 2020[4]



Given the amount of goods moved around the country, it is not surprising that a portion of deliveries are involved in accidents. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration reported over 164,000 accidents involving trucks in 2019.[5] Inevitably, some of those accidents, as well as loading and unloading materials at terminals or moving around facilities can lead to substance releases.

Did you know that all trucks carry potentially hazardous material?

Regardless of whether it's transporting fruits and vegetables, consumer goods or hazardous materials, any truck with petroleum in its fuel tank can cause a hazardous incident and threaten the surrounding environment.

While there are many types of hazardous materials transported on our roads, four are associated with the most damages.

800,000 trucks carry hazardous material every day[6]

Top 4 materials involved in highway hazardous material spills[7]

- #1: Flammable Combustible Liquid

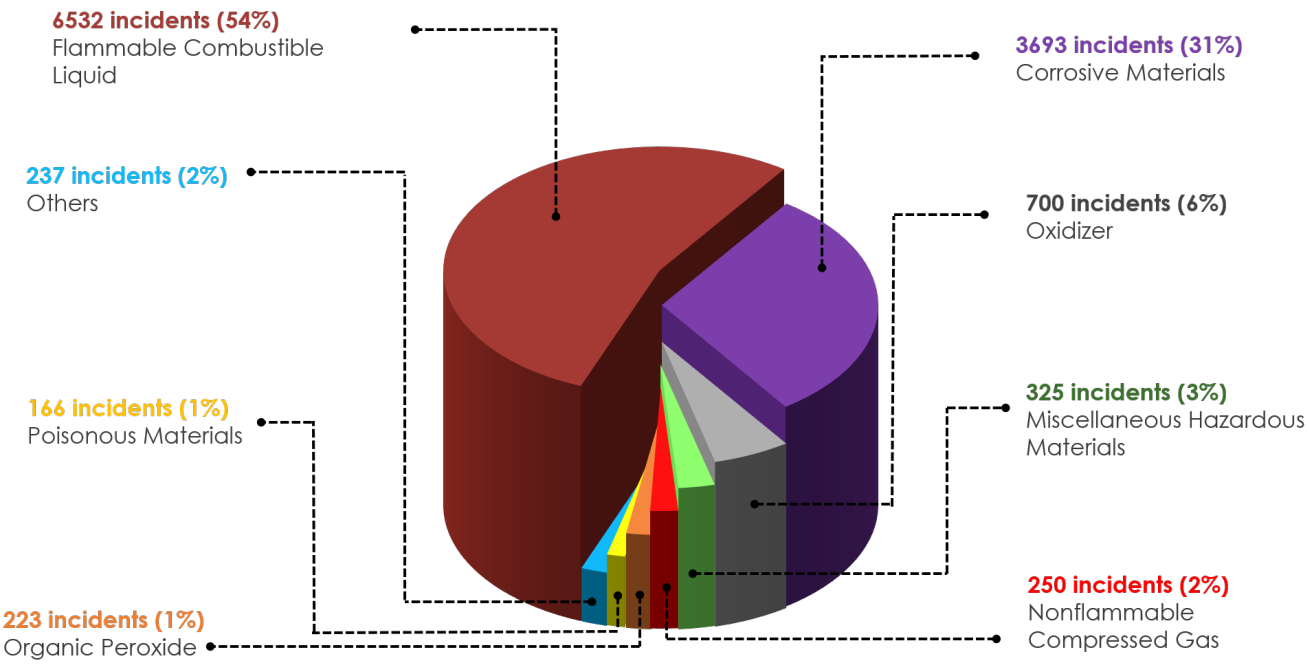
- #2: Corrosive Materials

- #3: Oxidizer

- #4: Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, in 2020 over 12,000 reported highway spill incidents involved hazardous materials, with damages totaling in excess of $52 million.[7]

Hazardous material involved in highway spills in 2020 (12,126 incidents)[7]



Reported numbers as of 12/21/2020

Do your drivers know what to do in the event of a spill?

The moment a spill happens, a critical clock begins. Responding quickly and effectively is of the utmost importance to contain released material and minimize the impact, liabilities and costs. Not having a plan in place and a designated spill response provider can result in confusion and additional challenges in the critical first moments after an incident.

Having the appropriate resources (i.e., a qualified response contractor) and appropriate driver training enables organizations to quickly respond to any type of substance and release circumstance, in turn reducing operational impact, financial burden and even the resulting damage to a company's brand.

Having a plan in place and training your drivers can minimize risk and cost for your organization.

The severity of an incident, along with the level of response, depends on the type and volume of product or material released as well as the surrounding environment (e.g., terrain, weather, location). Regardless of event size or scale, a prompt and effective response to mitigate as many factors as possible is imperative.

Over-the-road incidents typically fall into 3 general categories:

Tier 1: Depending on state regulations, small, confined releases (e.g., 5 gallons) may potentially be managed by a properly trained and equipped driver without the need of a response crew.

Stowing a spill kit inside each truck can help avoid unnecessary costs and delays with this type of incident. In some cases, simply applying containment booms or pads to a leaking saddle tank can save thousands of dollars.

Access to a 24/7 emergency spill response hotline can assist drivers in determining required actions and completing regulatory notifications, if required.

Tier 2: The complexity of an incident increases with certain materials and volume, as well as other environmental factors such as adverse weather, potentially impacted nearby bodies of water, steep runoff, loose soils, and more.

Driver training and guidance is still critical, but a qualified environmental emergency spill response crew is likely required to assist with site cleanup, regulatory guidance, waste transportation and disposal.

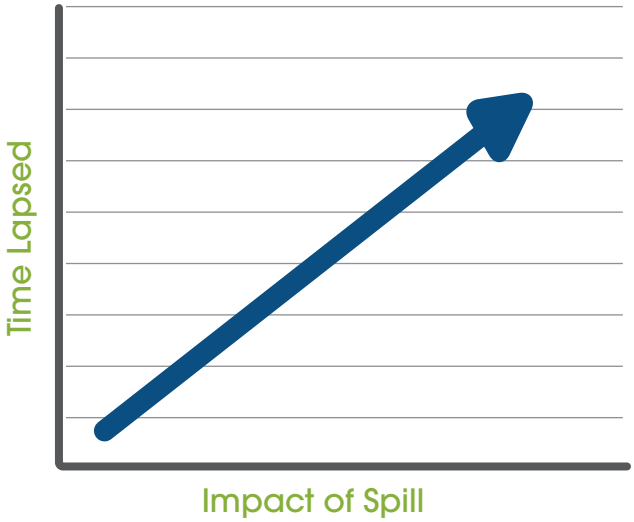
Typical roadside spills that require an outside response average a three to five man crew.

Tier 3: Major events include spills considered highly complex due to terrain, volatility and/or volume of released substances posing significant hazard to the surrounding environment and community.

While far less common, these events typically require substantial resources, specialized personnel and equipment to complete cleanup and remediation efforts.

They may involve multiple regulatory agencies, major traffic control measures and correspondence with landowners.

Mobilization time of appropriate resources is critical to quickly and effectively contain a release and minimize the short and long term impacts of an event.



Potential Impacts:

- Financial burden/costs and liabililties
- Interruption to operations
- Contamination of surrounding environment
- Community exposure and potential damage to brand image

In addition to volume and volatility of substance released, other factors that can have a significant effect on the complexity and impact of a spill include:

Terrain

Flat, impenetrable surface versus soil types with higher absorbency or difficult terrain such as mountains and nearby waterways that could be impacted with released materials

Weather

Adverse weather, even light precipitation, can drastically change the level of complexity of a response and cleanup effort

Location

Heavily populated, residential, or high traffic areas, where road closures need to be resolved quickly versus remote or rural site

Considerations for Regulatory Reporting and Compliance

Reporting

It is essential for transporters to know all regulations related to the specific substances and materials being hauled, moved or stored. Distinct guidelines and requirements exist for reporting oil and hazardous material spills to the appropriate regulatory authorities. **Knowing who to notify, when to report and what information to include can speed up the reporting process and ensure you maintain compliance.**

- Federal Guidelines: Per the EPA, a spill is reportable when the release of a hazardous substance equals or exceeds its Superfund Reportable Quantity. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the EPA has established a designated list of reportable quantities for approximately 800 hazardous substances[8]
- State and Local Regulations: Beyond federal regulations, state and local authorities may enforce additional reporting requirements.

Accidents aren't always avoidable.

Here's what you can do to prepare your driver and protect the financial health of your company.

Train your drivers on what to do and who to call

Training your drivers with General Safety Training or in some cases OSHA 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER) can result in significant cost savings. Drills with real life emergency situations can arm your drivers with the ability to stay calm and collected, knowing who to call and what actions to take in the event of a spill.

Equip your drivers with spill kits

For small spills under 5 gallons that qualify for self-performed cleanup, save time and money by being prepared with a spill kit on each vehicle.

Designate an Emergency Response Service Provider

In a discipline that requires the greatest attention to detail, the use of sophisticated equipment and the highest level of training and expertise, it is vital to have a qualified emergency response provider on standby with capabilities to quickly and effectively mitigate all levels of hazardous material incidents on a 24/7/365 basis.

US ecology

Your Partner for Nationwide Emergency Spill Response

Reduce cost, liability and operational impact with the right resources to protect your assets and minimize the impact on the environment.

Unmatched Expertise and Around the Clock Support

- 24/7 Command Center operated by US Ecology Emergency Response Coordinators
- Extensive resources from 350+ locations across North America
- Experience from 30+ years in the field and more than 10,000 responses performed annually

Reduced Costs, Liability and Operational Impact

- Rapid deployment of the right resources means faster mobilization times and more efficient responses
- 70% of all responses are self-performed with a target mobilization time of 2-hours or less
- Always be prepared with a US Ecology Master Services Agreement

Convenience of One Partner from Start to Finish

- Comprehensive turkney solutions to reduce risk and ensure compliance
- Complete incident management from deployment to cleanup, remediation to waste disposal, to final closeout, reporting and post incident support

Partnership Built on Trust and Unequaled Service Excellence

- Commitment to customer satisfaction
- Transparent pricing and cost controls with no sign up costs or hidden fees
- Innovative systems for customizable tracking, reporting, accurate invoicing and unparalleled data delivery

Dependable coverage from the #1 name in Emergency Response and most trusted environmental services provider since 1952.

Trucking is the heartbeat of this nation and critical to the infrastructure that keeps America running.

Emergency spill response planning is about being prepared for the inevitable to protect the environment, your assets and the financial health of your company.

US Ecology is here to support our fellow ATA members through professional consulting and training, 24 hour emergency spill response, COVID-19 cleaning, waste management and disposal, and other field service-related services.

(800) 899-4672

24 HOURS

365 DAYS A YEAR

References

[1] American Trucking Association. (2020). American Trucking Association. Retrieved 2020, from Economics and Industry Data: https://www.trucking.org/economics-and-industry-data

[2] Worldbank. (2021). GDP current ($US) All Countries and Economies. Retrieved from Worldbank: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD

[3] United States Department of Commerce. (2020). Quarterly Retail E-Commerce Sales 3rd Quarter 2020.

[4] Center for Transportation Analysis. (2019). Freight Analysis Framework Data Tabulation Tool. Retrieved from Freight Analysis Framework Version 4 (FAF4): https://faf.ornl.gov/fafweb/Extraction2.aspx

[5] U.S. Department of Transportation. (2020). Crash Statistics Summary Report. Retrieved from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration: https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/CrashStatistics/rptSummary.aspx

[6] U.S. Department of Transportation. (2017). Office of Operations -Traffic incident management in hazardous materials spills in incident clearance. Retrieved from Federal Highway Administration: https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop08058/20.htm

[7] U.S. Department of Transportation. (n.d.). Hazmat Summary by Hazardous Materials Class. Retrieved from Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration: https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat-program-management-data-and-statistics/data-operations/incident-statistics

[8] United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Land and Emergency Management (2020) List of Lists https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/list_of_lists.pdf

US ecology

For more information call (800) 899-4672 or visit us here

Unequaled service. Solutions you can trust.

USecology.com