



AskRail™

A Safety Tool for First Responders

The AskRail™ app is a safety tool that provides first responders immediate access to accurate, timely data about what type of hazardous materials a railcar is carrying so they can make an informed decision about how to respond to a rail emergency.

AskRail is a backup resource if information from the train conductor or train consist is not available.

For security reasons, only qualified emergency responders can download the app.

Learn more at www.AskRail.us



Initial rollout of the app began in October **2014**



All North American **Class I** railroads use the app



AskRail is **available** in English in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico



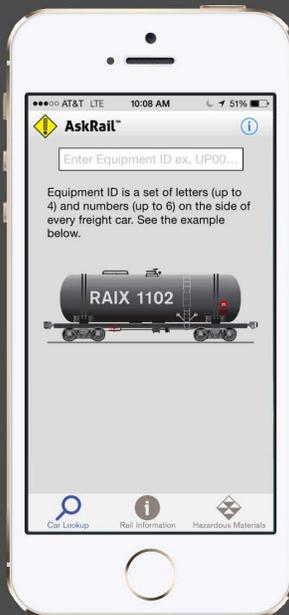
The app is a **collaborative** effort between AAR, AAR members, and Railinc Corp.



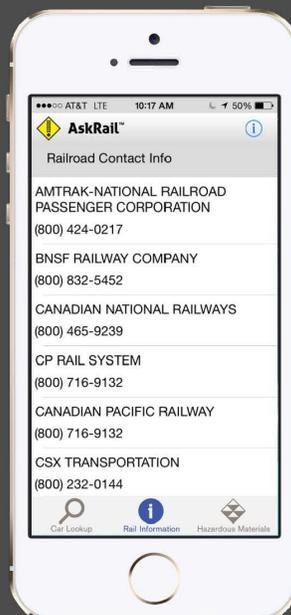
The app will be part of the standard **training** emergency responders receive from Class I's



Example App Functionalities



Use a simple railcar ID search to see whether a railcar on a train is carrying hazardous materials



View emergency contact information for all Class I railroads and Amtrak



Find reference resources like the Emergency Response Guidebook which provides critical response information

Expanding AskRail Access to ECCs and First Responder Training

U.S. freight railroads came together in 2014 to launch [AskRail](#), an innovative mobile app that enables first responders to view the contents of a train or see if a railcar is carrying hazmat. Since then, nearly 50,000 emergency personnel in 49 states have downloaded the tool.

Now railroads are trying to expand access by encouraging Emergency Communications Centers (ECCs) to integrate AskRail data into their operations. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on [issued](#) a Safety Advisory encouraging 911 Call Centers to integrate, train on and use AskRail.

A new training module specifically for ECCs as well as instructions on how to gain access and install AskRail on internet-ready devices is available at www.askrail.us.

“We wanted to be able to provide first responders real-time information, not just printed out copies and some of the old ways of doing things,” [says](#) Andy Elkins, director of hazmat compliance at the Association of American Railroads.

“Many firefighters and first responders across the country may never see a rail-related incident, but if it does occur, we want to make sure they have the best training—that they have successfully planned, trained for, and are able to mitigate these incidents.”

Illinois’ 47 freight railroads operate 6,768 miles of track, safely and efficiently connecting the U.S. economy. Rigorous operating standards alongside investment into the rail network has led to consistent safety gains—the last decade was the safest ever for railroads according to the Federal Railroad Administration. But incidents do still occur, and railroads have prioritized first responder training and coordination.

AskRail helps emergency personnel identify railcars carrying hazardous material such as petrochemicals as well as the location of key community assets—like schools, rivers, and heavily populated neighborhoods—that are more vulnerable to contamination. It also offers tailored guidance and connects to emergency services for all major Class I railroads and Amtrak.

Railroads also train about 20,000 state and local emergency responders every year on handling rail incidents. About 2,000 of these officials receive immersive training with full-scale scenarios at the world-class Security and Emergency Response Training Center ([SERTC](#)) in Pueblo, Colorado. SERTC is a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), which fully funds local, state, tribal and territorial first responders to attend any of SERTC’s DHS/FEMA-certified courses.

Additionally, TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response) is an outreach program covering North America. It focuses on assisting communities and training emergency responders to prepare for and respond to hazardous material transportation

incidents. In-person training events as well as virtual assets can be found at www.transcaer.com.