



Oil Train Safety Symposium: Outcomes and Next Steps



*Pacific NorthWest
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About the Symposium

April 27, 2016 in Lakewood, WA

- Originated from the Transportation and Disaster Resilience Sessions at last year's PNWER Summit in Big Sky, Montana.
- Organized by PNWER's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience and Transportation Co-Chairs Bruce Agnew and Senator Chuck Winder



About the Symposium

- Over 200 participants attended the event, including nearly 20 elected officials
- In attendance:
 - Local, state, and federal emergency management
 - Railroad and industry leaders
 - Port commissioners and representatives
 - State and federal regulators including the FRA, Department of Ecology, and the EPA



About the Symposium

- Agenda topics included:
 - Setting the Stage: From Bakken Oil Fields to West Coast Refineries
 - Federal Regulations: Current and Proposed
 - Emergency Management and First Responders
 - Ecology Spill Response: Local Capacity and Capabilities to Respond
 - Public Officials Response



Since the Symposium...

- **June 3, 2016: Oregon Columbia River Gorge Oil Train Derailment**
 - Spilled 42,000 gallons of Bakken crude oil and sparked a fire that burned for 14 hours
 - Reactions from state elected officials, local first responders, and federal lawmakers
 - Governor Kate Brown calls for moratorium on oil trains in Oregon State & Governor Jay Inslee calls for temporary halt on Union Pacific oil trains in Washington State
 - Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden introduce new oil train legislation to United States Senate
- **Industry Response (BNSF “Inside Tracks”)**

Recommendations

- Based on the discussion and feedback from participants, the following recommendations were developed:
 - Raise awareness for legislators and rail communities by developing a single repository for oil (and other HAZMAT) train safety information
 - Connect Northwest and Canadian rail corridor communities to share best practices with industry and regulators (Contingency Plans)
 - Encourage Class One and short haul railroads and shippers use the best technology for track inspection, operations, spill mitigation, and restoration
 - Pursue federal funding to expand PNWER's legislative and congressional public education and outreach on rail safety



Next Steps

- PNWER will continue to discuss oil train safety in more detail at the 2016 Winter Meeting in Boise, Idaho and the 2017 Annual Summit in Portland, Oregon.
- In the meantime, PNWER's Transportation Working Group will pursue federal support and resources to help outreach and bring together regulators and industry from throughout the entire corridor

For more event footage,
speaker presentations, and
information on oil train safety,
please visit:

bit.ly/oiltrainsafety



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Media coverage of PNWER's Tacoma oil by rail session and post Columbia River Gorge rail derailment

<http://www.king5.com/news/local/railroad-blamed-for-fiery-oil-train-derailment-in-oregon/253712080>