



# Oil Train Safety Updates

PNWER Economic Leadership

Forum

Boise, Idaho

November 17 2016



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*



# April Symposium Recap:

April 27, 2016 in Lakewood, WA

- 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



# 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

# 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. Groundwater contaminated. Track failure likely the cause.
- New oil train legislation introduced in response:
  - The Mandate Oil Spill



Inspections and Emergency Rules (MOSIER) Act introduced by Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden.

- The Hazardous Materials Rail Transportation Safety Improvement Act introduced by Oregon Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici.

# Recent developments

- Proposed initiative in Spokane, WA to prohibit transportation of oil and coal through city.
- Oil company Tesoro announced new safety measures for the proposed oil-by-rail terminal for the Port of Vancouver.
- Transport Canada prohibits DOT-111 tank cars from crude-oil service ahead of announced schedule.
- Transport Canada proposes regulations requiring recording devices onboard trains to improve rail safety.
- The Transportation Safety Board of Canada pushes for action on crew fatigue.
- WA adopts legislation to increase industry reporting.
- UP uses drones and Operation Pathfinder FHWA - BNSF/Insitu inspection drone project.



# Next Steps

- PNWER will continue to discuss oil train safety at the 2017 Annual Summit in Portland, Oregon as part of two-day Disaster Resilience track.
- PNWER will pursue federal support and resources to help outreach and bring together regulators and industry from throughout the entire corridor
- For more information and up-to-date news, visit [bit.ly/oiltrainsafety](http://bit.ly/oiltrainsafety)