



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY TIP

EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK (ERG)

Using the ERG

There are several ways that train crews can identify the contents of a rail car. Some or all of the following can be used:

- Shipping documents
- Placards
- Container labels
- Rail car & road trailer identification charts
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Train crews should also be in possession of an ERG. The first page of the ERG contains directions for its use. The ERG is divided into 5 sections:

White Pages

- Contains instructions and other general information

Yellow Pages

- A listing of commodities by UN/NA ID number in numerical order
- Locate the commodity to find the appropriate Guide Number

Blue Pages

- A listing of commodities by name in alphabetical order
- Locate the commodity to find the appropriate Guide Number

Orange Pages

- Contains Guides for commodities
- Hazard information such as health and fire/explosion
- Public Safety information such as evacuations and protective clothing
- Emergency Response information such as fire, spills and leaks, and first aid

Green Pages

- If the commodity involved is highlighted in Green, go to these pages
- The first section contains directions for using the table
- Find the UN/NA ID number to determine the isolation distance based on quantity
- A large spill is anything greater than what a 55-gallon drum would hold