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SHORT LINE SAFETY INSTITUTE HAS TRAINED MORE THAN 5,000 RAILROADERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

951 Organizations Have Taken Advantage of SLSI's Hazardous Materials Training

WASHINGTON – February 24, 2025 – This month, the Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) reached a milestone, with more than 5,000 short line railroad employees and first responders completing in-person hazardous materials training. An additional 1,500 railroad employees have been trained on the safe transportation of hazardous materials by participants in SLSI's Train-the-Trainer program.

The need for supplemental training on the safe movement of hazmat and the need to communicate and coordinate with first responders during incident pre-planning, mitigation, and recovery efforts were identified through Safety Culture Assessments (SCAs) conducted on short lines across the country.

SLSI-provided hazardous materials training was initiated in 2018 with a competitive grant from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA). In 2022, the SLSI began to offer training that included first responders, supported by an Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grant from PHMSA. Since 2018, the SLSI has provided 355 classes and 171 training events in person, reaching participants from 951 organizations.

"Our hazardous materials in-person training has been one of our most impactful offerings, with more than 951 organizations and more than 5,000 individuals taking part in a classroom training, an exercise or a drill. Including first responders in railroad training has proven to be constructive and beneficial in preparing a coordinated response in the case of an incident," said Tom Murta, Executive

Director, SLSI. “With the ongoing support of PHMSA, SLSI delivers a variety of high-quality interactive training programs to railroads of any size, particularly those in rural areas.”

For more on the Short Line Safety Institute programs visit www.shortlinesafety.org. Sign up for e-mail news on SLSI’s [home page](#) and follow on [LinkedIn](#) for more updates.

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About SLSI - The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) is a non-profit corporation that conducts Safety Culture Assessments, provides Hazardous Material Instructor and Leadership Development programs, and is the educational, training and research source for short line and regional railroads concerning safety culture. www.shortlinesafety.org, [@shortlinesafety](#)