

## **Oil trains: A threat to public health and safety**

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Public Health Professionals

ABSTRACT: Mosier, OR, June, 2016 - Oil train derails, spills 42,000 gallons of oil and catches fire, causing evacuations, hazardous air quality and loss of water and sewer systems.

This was one of 19 trains that carried oil through the Columbia Gorge the previous week. If current proposals are allowed to proceed, there could be as many as 137 oil trains per week. Bakken oil is more volatile and flammable than most other crude oils. Tank cars are prone to puncture, spills and fires. Nearly 4 million Northwest residents live in the USDOT recommended evacuation zone. These trains present a direct risk to the health and safety of Oregonians.

The presentation will include information on several health risks associated with oil by rail transport. These include, but are not limited to: delayed emergency response, burns and traumatic injuries, acute and long-term exposures to air pollution and water pollution, and adverse impacts of train noise.

Challenges for public health and emergency response agencies including prevention, mitigation and follow-up will be presented. Roles for health professionals to prevent and reduce risks associated with oil by rail will be discussed.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify five negative health impacts of oil by rail transport and three actions public health agencies and professionals can take to reduce these risks.

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