



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY



# Rail Safety and Security Task Force

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## Task Force Report

- Issued May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015
  - A year and a day after the Lynchburg derailment
- Includes 55 Recommendations
  - 10 Key Findings
  - Task Force Agencies: VDEM, DRPT, VDH, VSP, VDFP, VDEQ, and SCC



## Key Findings

- Rail transportation remains a relatively safe method of moving hazardous materials
- Virginia has a robust system to plan for, respond to, and recover from hazardous materials emergencies, including along rail lines
- Upward trends in crude oil and ethanol shipments are expected to continue across North America
- Rail transportation is legally defined as interstate commerce and is thus a largely federal issue



## Key Findings

- Local and state government responsibilities are generally confined to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergency rail incidents
- Local and state response agencies have longstanding relationships with Virginia rail companies
- Virginia state agencies share very positive relationships with federal agencies responsible for rail safety and security



## Key Findings

- There exist a number of potential opportunities to enhance responders' operational capabilities
- Virginia is somewhat limited in its ability to pass legislation due to rail's classification as interstate commerce
- More specific information on rail needs to be readily available to local and state response agencies



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## Questions?

[www.pshs.virginia.gov/initiatives/commissions-  
task-forces-working-groups/](http://www.pshs.virginia.gov/initiatives/commissions-task-forces-working-groups/)