

# Northeast Interagency Support Cache

## Policy Hazardous Material Haul Back

### **Introduction**

Stringent laws, rules and regulations define every phase of handling hazardous materials during their lifecycle. The fundamental focus of those instructions is to absolutely minimize the risk to health, safety and property. This policy will identify responsibilities, documentation requirements and procedures for transporting approved hazardous material. The policy is by no means comprehensive; however, it is fundamentally based on Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which the incident (shipper) has the ultimate responsibility to know and apply.

This policy adheres to 49 CFR for reasons of simplicity and consistency regardless of the transportation method. The restrictions for aircraft are as explicitly stated in 49 CFR 172.101. The restrictions for ground transport are set at 80% of the maximum allowable non-bulk quantity, unless 49 CFR requires "consumer commodity": This provides a significant margin of error to avoid placard and special license requirements. This policy is one of several sources of information for the subject. Others can be found in Appendix A. Another guidance tool is the Hazmat Guide found on the tab between pages 46 and 47 of the National Fire Equipment System (NFES) Catalog.

### **EXPLANATION**

The Northeast Interagency Support Cache will not accept the shipment of material classified as hazardous unless specifically exempted in this policy or approved by the Cache Manager in a signed statement. The Cache has neither the facilities nor the resources to handle hazardous materials beyond what it currently stocks.

The Northeast Interagency Support Cache is not a hazardous materials disposal facility. The

minimal amount of hazardous material disposal incidental to cache operations is processed through an external disposal site.

The Northeast Interagency Support Cache is not a hazardous waste facility. Hazardous waste is absolutely unacceptable, as is bio-hazardous material.

The Cache, likewise, is not a waste disposal facility. Landfill-destined waste should be disposed directly by the customer. It is the responsibility of the incident to properly dispose hazardous material, including unused and waste fuel, as prescribed by applicable laws, rules and regulations.

### **OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES**

The individual assigned to transport supplies and equipment from the incident to the cache has the responsibility to ensure safe transportation. They have the authority to refuse transportation if the shipment is deemed improperly prepared for transport, or if they determine that prohibited material is loaded.

The driver will:

1. Be present during the loading process.
2. Inspect all hazardous material shipment before loading and contact the Cache for instruction if suspicious material is offered for shipment.
3. Observe and verify the contents loaded.
4. Refuse shipment if:
  - a. Hazardous material packaging is not marked or labeled.
  - b. Any container is leaking or has detectable vapor.
  - c. Any hazardous material container is damaged or has questionable appearance.

5. Secure the vehicle (with a lock or seal) when absent or the loading is complete.
  6. Obtain shipping papers and Material Safety Data Sheets.
  7. Obtain the signed certification that the shipment is in compliance with 49 CFR and/or Cache policy. The certification will be signed by the Cache Operation Section, Agency Official, or equivalent designee.
  8. Hand-deliver the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) from the shipper to the receiver at the Cache.
2. Contact receiving cache and verify acceptability. Note date, time and name of person contacted; and
  3. Packaged in the original packaging or in packaging prescribed in 49 CFR, Part 173; and
  4. Prepared for transport as specified by 49 CFR;
  5. Quantity limited to:
    - a. 80% of reportable quantity (49 CFR 172.101 Appendix A); or
    - b. "Consumer commodity" weight of 30 kilograms (66 pounds) if reportable quantity is unknown.

#### **ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION FOR HAUL-BACK**

1. Any and all material classified as hazardous waste, bio-hazardous waste or waste appropriate for landfill disposal.
2. Any and all fuel, except propane and lantern fuel as prescribed.
3. Class 1 (Explosive), Divisions 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.
4. Class 6 (Poisonous or Infectious).
5. Class 7 (Radioactive).
6. Class 8 (Corrosive).

#### **ALLOWABLE HAUL-BACK**

1. All non-hazardous material, supplies and equipment received from a cache or through a procurement process.
2. All material securely sealed in the original packaging, which has not been punctured, damaged, wetted by any fluid, vapor or moisture, contaminated or otherwise altered.
3. Hazardous material originally received from a cache if compliant with 49 CFR for transport.
4. As allowed in subsections described below.

#### **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL NOT OTHERWISE PRESCRIBED**

Any hazardous material not specifically prescribed or prohibited in this policy MIGHT BE permissible for return to the Cache with the following prescription:

1. The material is currently stocked and dispatched by the receiving cache; or

NOTE: Do not assume anything. Consult Cache management if there is any question regarding hazardous material transport. As the shipper, your only security is in knowledge and compliance.

#### **COMMON TRANSPORT RULES TO REMEMBER**

1. Only packaging prescribed in 49 CFR is used.
2. Material within packaging is secure from movement.
3. Packaging is secured to the vehicle to prevent relative movement between packages.
4. No sharp projections within cargo hold of transport vehicle.
5. No risk for puncture, damage, wetting, exposure to ignition, dropping, or commingling with other hazardous material.
6. No hazardous material loaded/shipped on pole trailers (49 CFR 177.834(b)).
7. Multiple classes may or may not be shipped together. If permitted, load such material away from or physically separated from others.
8. Load hazardous material to be located toward rear of vehicle.
9. Total weight/volume of all hazardous material in transport vehicle cannot exceed the maximum allowable for any one type.