



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY TIP

NON-ACCIDENTAL RELEASES

DEFINITION: Non-Accidental Releases (NARs) are the **UNINTENTIONAL RELEASE** of a hazardous material while in transportation, including loading and unloading while in railroad possession, that is **NOT CAUSED** by a derailment, collision, or other rail-related accident.

Remember three key points about non-accidental releases:

1. The release is unintentional
2. It occurs while in transportation
3. It is not caused by a rail-related accident

TYPES: Leaks, splashes, and other forms of releases, including the venting of non-atmospheric gases from safety relief devices, are all considered non-accidental releases.

CAUSES: Non-accidental releases are caused by improperly secured or defective valves, fittings, and tank shells.

RESPONSE: Non-accidental releases require specific handling, remediation, and notification efforts.

1. **MOVEMENT:** The railcar can be moved only as far as necessary to reduce or eliminate an immediate threat. Initial movement requires railroad approval and may also require government approval. **NOTE!** A non-accidental release car cannot continue “in transportation” until the leak is controlled!
2. **CAUSE:** The cause of the non-accidental release must be investigated and corrected. If a defective or damaged component is found to be the cause, a one-time movement approval (OTMA) may be required prior to movement.
3. **RESIDUE:** Any residual product remaining in the car must be cleaned, including any impacts to the ground.
4. **RESPONSIBILITY:** The individual addressing a non-accidental release is responsible for ensuring no additional release will occur prior to the railcar reaching its final destination.
5. **NOTIFICATION:** Call the appropriate shipper emergency contact telephone number.

REPORTING: Online submission of form DOT F 5800.1 is required **WITHIN 30 DAYS** of discovery of an incident. Access form DOT 5800.1 through PHMSA’s Portal Access Page at <https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/PHMSAPortal2/HAZMATICS>.