



50 F Street, NW., Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20001  
[www.shortlinesafety.org](http://www.shortlinesafety.org)

Contact:  
Amy Krouse  
[akrouse@aslrra.org](mailto:akrouse@aslrra.org)  
(Cell) 312-371-6947

SHORT LINE SAFETY INSTITUTE HOSTS 200<sup>th</sup> HAZMAT TRAINING EVENT  
*More than 1,000 Organizations and 6,700 Participants Trained to Date*

WASHINGTON – October 30, 2025 – This week, the Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) has completed its 200<sup>th</sup> Hazardous Materials training event, hosted by the TGS Group in Baytown, Texas. SLSI has conducted 392 classes to date, with 6,786 short line and regional railroad employees and first responders from 1,050 organizations completing [training](#) since the inception of the 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 by the SLSI on short lines across the country.

"Part of the mission of the Wheeling and Lake Erie Hazardous Materials Department is to ensure that first responders have the knowledge and confidence to handle railroad incidents safely and effectively. The collaboration and engagement we see from participants during the classes that are conducted by the SLSI is outstanding," said John Vergis, Hazardous Materials/Environmental Officer, Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway. "We are proud to work with SLSI to bring our responders quality training. Their programs focus on safety culture, leadership and emergency response training and work to ensure a safer and more resilient rail industry."

SLSI-provided hazardous materials training was initiated in 2018 supported by a grant from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA). In 2022, the SLSI began to offer training

that included first responders, provided by an Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grant from PHMSA.

“The experience and knowledge that SLSI trainers bring to both the classroom and field portions of training are invaluable. This type of training is so important to our first responders and gives them the opportunity to familiarize themselves with railroad equipment in a training atmosphere with instructors who have been involved in all types of real-world scenarios. If you have the opportunity to utilize SLSI, you will be providing top-tier training for your group,” said Timothy Slusser, General Manager, Ohio Central Railroad.

The SLSI training often includes multiple railroads and first responder groups, as many railroads touch a number of towns and localities. Training is customized for the railroads participating to reflect specific scenarios that would be possible on their property.

“The Pioneer Valley Railroad has partnered with the SLSI for the last two years to provide education and awareness to both the PVRR team and local emergency responders. These events have been instrumental in building strong relationships with our local emergency responders. Given the presence of multiple railroads in the region, it’s essential that responders know who to contact at our railroad in the event of an accident nearby or on our tracks,” shared Matthew Lane, General Manager, Pioneer Valley Railroad and Railroad Distribution Services. “After participating in these training sessions, police and fire departments are equipped to identify the correct railroad and have accurate contact information. The training provided is relevant, thoughtfully delivered, and highly valued. We operate in three communities across Western Massachusetts, and each one looks forward to this annual training.”

[HazMat training and materials](#) provided by the SLSI also include videos and Safety Tips for safety briefings, Transportation Emergency Response Plans, and Emergency Preparedness and Response Training – educating teams on working with a Unified Chain of Command during an incident response.

“Our hazardous materials in-person training has been one of our most impactful offerings and has been received well by railroaders and first responders alike. Our staff has more than 700 years of expertise in Hazardous Materials safety, and we are pleased to put that knowledge to work for the

benefit of short lines and communities across the country,” said Tom Murta, Executive Director, SLSI. “SLSI delivers a variety of high-quality interactive training programs to railroads of any size, particularly those in rural areas.”

To contact the Short Line Safety Institute to schedule a training, programs visit

<https://www.shortlinesafety.org/training/>. Sign up for e-mail news on SLSI’s [home page](#) and follow on [LinkedIn](#) for more updates.

###

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](http://www.shortlinesafety.org), [@shortlinesafety](#)