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SAFETY



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Hazmat Transportation Security on Highest Alert during Olympics and Super Bowl

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is asking that the hazmat community be especially vigilant regarding possible terrorists attacks during the time of Super Bowl XXXVI scheduled for February 3, 2002 in New Orleans, Louisiana and the Winter Olympics scheduled to begin on February 8, 2002 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Although security measures have been expanded at the specific site locations of these special events, possible threats exist nationally as attention is focused elsewhere.

“While much of the recent media attention has focused on aviation safety, the new Transportation Security Administration will work to develop heightened security procedures and awareness across every mode of transportation including rail, highways, transit, maritime and pipeline. Across every mode, we must continue to develop measures to increase the protection of critical transportation assets, addressing freight as well as passenger transportation,” Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said.

Hazmat transportation security measures should be reviewed and strengthened as appropriate. The Department is requesting shippers and transporters of high-hazard materials to consider altering routes to avoid populated areas whenever practicable. *(For high-hazard materials see 49 CFR 172.504 Table 1)*

In the wrong hands hazardous materials pose a threat to transportation security. Transportation workers should be more aware of their surroundings and watch for and report any suspicious activities they may see. Hazmat vehicles should be within view at all times and whenever possible should not be left unattended. Companies should insure that hazardous materials are in responsible and reliable hands. Enhanced security measures relating to delivery scrutiny and delays should also be addressed.

The transportation industry should not only be alert as to possible theft of a loaded transport vehicle but of an empty one that could be loaded with cargo to cause mass destruction. Transport vehicles intended for other than hazardous materials may be utilized improperly and cause great harm. New or enhanced transportation security measures when properly implemented should cause no disruption of the flow of cargo.