

# 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook



A GUIDEBOOK  
FOR FIRST RESPONDERS  
DURING THE INITIAL PHASE  
OF A DANGEROUS GOODS/  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
TRANSPORTATION INCIDENT

## SHIPPING DOCUMENTS (PAPERS)\*

The shipping document provides vital information when responding to a hazardous materials/dangerous goods\*\* incident. The shipping document contains information needed to identify the materials involved. Use this information to initiate protective actions for your own safety and the safety of the public. The shipping document contains the 4-digit ID number (see yellow-bordered pages) preceded by the letters UN or NA, the proper shipping name (see blue-bordered pages), the hazard class or division of the material(s), and, where appropriate, the Packing Group. The shipping document will also display a 24-hour emergency response telephone number. In addition, there must be information available that describes the hazards of the material which can be used in the mitigation of an incident. The information must be entered on or be with the shipping document. This requirement may be satisfied by attaching a guide from the ERG2008 to the shipping document, or by having the entire guidebook available for ready reference. Shipping documents are required for most dangerous goods in transportation. Shipping documents are kept in

- the cab of the motor vehicle,
- the possession of the train crew member,
- a holder on the bridge of a vessel, or
- an aircraft pilot's possession.

EMERGENCY CONTACT 1-000-000-0000	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">EXAMPLE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER</div>
NO. & TYPE OF PACKAGES	HAZARD CLASS OR DIVISION NO.
1 TANKTRUCK	UN1219 ISOPROPANOL 3 II 12,000 LITERS
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: small;">ID NUMBER</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: small;">SHIPPING NAME</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: small;">PACKING GROUP</div> </div>

### EXAMPLE OF PLACARD AND PANEL WITH ID NUMBER

The 4-digit ID Number may be shown on the diamond-shaped placard or on an adjacent orange panel displayed on the ends and sides of a cargo tank, vehicle or rail car.



A Numbered Placard

or

A Placard and an Orange Panel



1219

\* For the purposes of this guidebook, the terms shipping document/shipping paper are synonymous.

\*\* For the purposes of this guidebook, the terms hazardous materials/dangerous goods are synonymous.

**BEFORE AN EMERGENCY – BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THIS GUIDEBOOK!** In the U.S., according to the requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA, 29 CFR 1910.120), and regulations issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 40 CFR Part 311), first responders must be trained regarding the use of this guidebook.

**RESIST RUSHING IN !**  
**APPROACH INCIDENT FROM UPWIND**  
**STAY CLEAR OF ALL SPILLS, VAPORS, FUMES, SMOKE AND SUSPICIOUS SOURCES**

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDEBOOK DURING AN INCIDENT INVOLVING DANGEROUS GOODS**

**STEP ONE:** IDENTIFY THE MATERIAL. USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (4-DIGIT ID) FROM A PLACARD, ORANGE PANEL, SHIPPING PAPER OR PACKAGE** (after UN/NA)
- **NAME OF THE MATERIAL FROM A SHIPPING DOCUMENT OR PACKAGE**

**STEP TWO:** IDENTIFY 3-DIGIT GUIDE NUMBER USE:

- **ID NUMBER INDEX in yellow-bordered pages** or
- **NAME OF MATERIAL INDEX in blue-bordered pages**

Guide number supplemented with the letter "P" indicates that the material may undergo violent polymerization if subjected to heat or contamination.

**INDEX ENTRIES HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN** are TIH (Toxic Inhalation Hazard) material, a chemical warfare agent or a Dangerous Water Reactive Material (produces toxic gas upon contact with water).

**IDENTIFY ID NUMBER AND NAME OF MATERIAL IN TABLE 1 – INITIAL ISOLATION AND PROTECTIVE ACTION DISTANCES** (the green-bordered pages). **IF NECESSARY, BEGIN PROTECTIVE ACTIONS IMMEDIATELY** (see Protective Actions page 296). If no protective action required, use the information jointly with the 3-digit guide.

**STEP THREE:** TURN TO THE NUMBERED GUIDE (the orange-bordered pages) **READ CAREFULLY.**

**USE GUIDE 112 FOR ALL EXPLOSIVES EXCEPT FOR EXPLOSIVES 1.4 (EXPLOSIVES C) WHERE GUIDE 114 IS TO BE CONSULTED.**

**NOTE:** IF ABOVE STEPS CANNOT BE COMPLETED AND PLACARD IS VISIBLE: Turn to pages 16-17; use 3-digit guide next to placard; **PROCEED TO NUMBERED GUIDE** (orange-bordered pages). If shipping document is available, call emergency response telephone number listed. If document or emergency response telephone is not available, **IMMEDIATELY CALL** the appropriate **emergency response agency listed in the back of this guidebook**. Provide as much information as possible, such as the name of the carrier (trucking company or railroad) and vehicle number. **IF A REFERENCE TO A GUIDE CANNOT BE FOUND AND THIS INCIDENT IS BELIEVED TO INVOLVE DANGEROUS GOODS, TURN TO GUIDE 111 NOW, AND USE IT UNTIL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.**

**AS A LAST RESORT:** IF ONLY THE CONTAINER CAN BE IDENTIFIED, CONSULT THE TABLE OF RAIL CAR AND ROAD TRAILER IDENTIFICATION CHART (pages 18-19). REMEMBER THAT THE INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THESE CONTAINERS IS FOR WORST CASE SCENARIOS.