



## **DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP) WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**Montréal, 1 to 5 October 2018**

### **Agenda Item 10: Other business**

#### **U.S. DOT DANGEROUS GOODS PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN “CHECK THE BOX”**

(Presented by D. Pfund)

##### **SUMMARY**

This information paper introduces an outreach campaign on undeclared dangerous goods called “Check the Box.”

### **1. OVERVIEW**

1.1 Each year, in the United States there are approximately 1,500 reports of undeclared shipments of dangerous goods (hazardous materials or hazmat). When these materials are not properly declared, or identified as hazmat, they can pose significant threats to transportation workers, emergency responders, the public, and the environment.

1.2 The “Check the Box” initiative aims to raise public awareness of undeclared hazmat and increase compliance with safety rules by:

- a) identifying commonly shipped items that are also considered hazardous materials;  
and
- b) providing access to resources on how to safely ship hazmat.

1.3 In August 2018, DOT kicked off this campaign and continues to promote this effort within the United States at various stakeholder events. Moving forward, U.S. DOT will release videos, public service announcements, news articles, and programmatic display promotions. Further information and promotional material can be found at: <https://checkthebox.dot.gov/>.



APPENDIX

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF UNDECLARED HAZMAT



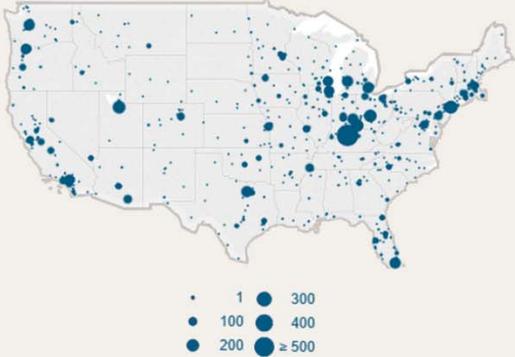


# Is HazMatt hiding in your package?

**Each year, approximately 1,500 transportation incidents occur when undeclared hazardous materials are shipped.**

These incidents involve diverse types of hazardous materials and cause serious safety consequences for transportation workers, emergency responders, and the general public.

**Incidents with Undeclared Hazmat by Location**



Source: <https://hazmatonline.phmsa.dot.gov/IncidentReportsSearch/Welcome.aspx>

**Incidents with Undeclared Hazmat by Commodity**

Commodity	Approximate Number of Incidents
Aerosols	2,800
Cleaning Supplies & Corrosives	2,500
Flammable Liquids	2,000
Dry Ice	1,800
Flammable Paint	1,500
Diesel Fuel	1,200
Compressed Gases	1,000
Devices containing Hazardous Materials	800
Perfumes	700
Other	600
Explosives	500
Batteries	400
Fire Extinguishers	300
Oxidizers	200
Fuel Cells	150
Flammable Adhesives	100
Poisons	100
Lighters	100

**Notable Incidents**

 <p><b>HOUSTON, TX: 2017</b> - An undeclared intermodal container being transported by rail caught fire when 55 gallon drums of lithium batteries entered thermal runaway and exploded.</p>	 <p><b>MIAMI, FL: 2013</b> - TSA screeners found an unknown spilled substance, later identified as the toxic pesticide Malathion. Six airline, TSA, and EMS personnel were injured during the response.</p>
 <p><b>DALLAS, TX: 2014</b> - Unmarked boxes containing smaller inner packages of sulfuric acid leaked and injured four UPS employees.</p>	 <p><b>LINWOOD, PA: 2012</b> - A package of unmarked formaldehyde was dropped and then leaked, injuring eight airline employees.</p>
 <p><b>JACKSON, MS: 2013</b> - An unmarked package containing oxidizing liquids was punctured during handling. Three FedEx employees were injured while examining the inner container.</p>	 <p><b>ANDERSON CA: 2008</b> - A box of undeclared fire extinguishers leaked at a UPS sorting facility, injuring three employees.</p>



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

# CheckTheBox.dot.gov