PLANNING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SHIPMENT ROUTES

States have the responsibility of determining highway routes for the shipment of shipment of hazardous materials based on the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations. The DOT encourages the use of the interstate highway system whenever possible, but each State may devise alternate routes.

Directions: Assume that, as the governor of your State, you have decided to suggest routing for hazardous materials shipments through your State. You and your group of emergency, technical, and transportation experts must plan what you consider to be the safest route, using the Federal, State, and local guidelines which must be followed during highway shipments. The final destination is a fictitious site in an undetermined State in a direction chosen by your group. Assume that the hazardous materials cross into your State on an interstate highway. It is up to you to plan the rest of the route, keeping in mind the factors that are cited in the Introduction to this lesson. You may use interstate highways, alternate State highways, or a combination.

I. General Considerations

A. Time of transport

1. What time(s) of day and week do you consider the least desirable time(s) to transport hazardous materials through your State? Why?

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2. What times of day and week do you consider the most desirable times to transport hazardous materials? Why?

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3. What times of year do you consider to be the least desirable times to transport hazardous materials?

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_____

The most desirable? Why?

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_____

4. What types of roads would probably be the least desirable to transport hazardous materials?

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B. Population

1. What, if any, cities, towns, or areas should be bypassed during the transportation of hazardous materials along this route? Why?

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C. Route Selection

1. Describe the route by which you will allow hazardous materials to travel into, through, and out of your State.

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2. What factors did your group consider to be most important in this route selection?

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3. Calculate the number of miles that will be traveled on this route.

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4. What steps will your State take to protect the public along this route?

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5. How long will it take to travel this route, assuming that the trucks transporting the hazardous materials travel at an average of 55 mph?

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D. Contingencies

1. Suppose that you are confronted with the following situations. What adjustments, if any, would you make to your route or to your shipment procedures?

A. arrival in a major city at morning or evening rush hour:

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B. road construction and delays on interstate and/or State highways:

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C. adverse weather conditions (snow and ice, rainstorms, fog, etc.):

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D. 11:30 p.m. concert traffic in or near a major city:

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