

Source: Hazardous Materials Information System, U.S. Department of Transportation. Data as of 5/19/2004.

* RSPA revised the definition of a serious incident in 2002. This report uses both definitions:

This is the definition used for 1992-2001:

- a fatality or major injury caused by the release of a hazardous material,
- closure of a major transportation artery,
- the evacuation of 6 or more persons due to the presence of a hazardous material,

- a vehicle accident or derailment resulting in the release of a hazardous material

This is the current definition used after 2001:

- a fatality or major injury caused by the release of a hazardous material,
- the evacuation of 25 or more persons as a result of release of a hazardous material or exposure to fire,
- a release or exposure to fire which results in the closure of a major transportation artery,
- the alteration of an aircraft flight plan or operation,
- the release of radioactive materials from Type B packaging,
- the release of over 11.9 gallons or 88.2 pounds of a severe marine pollutant, or
- the release of a bulk quantity (over 119 gallons or 882 pounds) of a hazardous material.