

BNSF



NEWS

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BNSF Announces Implementation Of SAFER STAR Emergency Response System

FORT WORTH, Texas, December 12, 2000 -- The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) today announced that it has become the first transportation company to begin full implementation of the SAFER STAR[®] system as part of BNSF's commitment to continuous improvement in the safety of rail operations.

SAFER STAR uses mapping, database and global positioning system (GPS) technology, as well as remote weather monitoring, to allow railroad, industry and community emergency responders to accurately model the effects of chemical releases at any location throughout BNSF's 33,500-route-mile system.

"This tool is helping BNSF, along with its customer and community emergency response partners, quickly and correctly develop plans to address potential hazardous materials emergencies," says Greg Stengem, BNSF's vice president, Safety, Training and Operations Services. "BNSF's rate of derailment-related hazardous materials incidents per 100,000 shipments has dropped more than 45 percent since 1996, and we expect Safer STAR to help us further improve the management of our response in the future."

As a leader in the safe transportation of hazardous materials, BNSF worked closely with SAFER Systems to leverage the latest in technology to maximize safety for BNSF customers and employees and the communities served by the railway. The result was SAFER STAR.

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“SAFER products have been proven in countless emergency situations to save lives and millions of dollars for our customers,” says Matthew S. Collier, president of SAFER Systems. “We want to offer this significant and powerful capability to the world’s transportation sector.”

SAFER STAR accurately models the effects of chemical releases. The program includes the powerful SAFER algorithms for addressing issues related to chemical releases. In addition, SAFER provides mapping and topographical databases for the region of interest. Weather information may be obtained from a number of remote sources, including those available via the Internet.

SAFER STAR also is available to other transportation companies and communities. SAFER STAR has recently been adopted by the Protection Civile of Luxembourg and will provide nationwide emergency response coverage for the entire country.

BNSF operates one of the largest rail networks in North America, with 33,500 route miles of track covering 28 states and two Canadian provinces.

SAFER Systems is the global leader in Chemical Risk Management software, having installed state-of-the-art emergency response management systems worldwide over the past 20 years. Major corporations that manufacture, process, store or transport hazardous materials rely on SAFER Systems software in responding to an emergency situation.

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