

**49 CFR PART 225**

**FRA Telephonic Notification**

**(800) 424-8802**

**EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2011**

**Updated 09/26/14**

## **FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports**

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### **1. Overview of Railroad Accident/Incident Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements and Miscellaneous Provisions and Information**

#### **1.1 General**

This chapter provides an overview of FRA’s accident/incident recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

##### ***1.1.1 Purpose of the FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports***

The FRA Guide provides instructions and guidance associated with FRA’s accident/incident recordkeeping and reporting requirements. The FRA Guide is a supplement to Part 225 and is not a replacement for the regulatory text. Federal railroad safety regulations at § 225.11 and § 225.21 require that each railroad subject to Part 225 complete reports and records of accidents/incidents in accordance with the current FRA Guide.

##### ***1.1.2 Applicability***

To determine if Part 225 applies to a railroad, in whole or in part, see § 225.3, “Applicability.” See also “Extent and Exercise of FRA’s Safety Jurisdiction,” Part 209, Appendix A, and “Statement of Agency Policy Concerning Waivers Related to Shared Use Trackage or Rights-of-Way by Light Rail and Conventional Operations,” Part 211, Appendix A.

##### ***1.1.3 Consolidated Reporting***

Under certain circumstances, a parent corporation with commonly controlled railroad carriers that operate as a single, seamless, integrated U.S. rail system, may be considered by FRA as a single railroad for purposes of Part 225 compliance. See § 225.6.

### **1.2 Major Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements Under Part 225**

There are many recordkeeping and reporting requirements arising from Part 225. The following is a summarized listing of FRA’s major recordkeeping and reporting requirements for all railroads subject to Part 225. This listing is a summary only and does not replace the regulatory text or requirements set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations. Narratives are included when supplemental information, requirements, or guidance is warranted.

#### ***1.2.1 Telephonic Reporting***

Railroads must make immediate telephonic notification of certain accidents/incidents. See § 225.9. For supplemental information, see Appendix M.

## FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports

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*Additional Telephonic Reporting Requirements Related to Accidents.* There are four additional sections in chapter II of 49 CFR that require telephonic reporting related to accidents. These sections are listed below for informational purposes.

**49 CFR 229.17** – *Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards; Accident reports.* Under this section, in the case of an accident due to a failure from any cause of a locomotive or any part or appurtenance of a locomotive, or a person coming in contact with an electrically energized part or appurtenance, which results in serious injury (i.e., an injury that results in the amputation of any appendage, the loss of sight in an eye, bone fracture, or confinement in a hospital for a period of more than 24 consecutive hours) or death of one or more persons, the railroad operating the locomotive must immediately report the accident by toll-free telephone number: (800) 424-0201.

**49 CFR 233.5** – *Signal Systems Reporting Requirements; Accidents resulting from signal failure.* Under this section, a railroad must report to FRA within 24 hours, by toll-free telephone number: (800) 424-0201, whenever it learns of the occurrence of an accident/incident arising from the failure of an appliance, device, method, or system to function or indicate as required by Part 236 that results in a more favorable aspect than intended or other condition hazardous to the movement of a train.

**49 CFR 234.7** – *Grade Crossing Signal System Safety; Accidents involving grade crossing signal failure.* Under this section, a railroad must report to FRA every impact between on-track railroad equipment and an automobile, bus, truck, motorcycle, bicycle, farm vehicle, or pedestrian at a highway-rail grade crossing involving an activation failure. Notification shall be provided to the National Response Center within 24 hours of occurrence at: (800) 424-0201.

**49 CFR 219.209(a)** – *Control of Alcohol and Drug Use; Reports of tests and refusals.* Under this section, a railroad that has experienced a qualifying accident/incident or other event for which specimens were obtained must provide immediate telephonic notification summarizing such events to the National Response Center at: (800) 424-8802 and to FRA's Office of Railroad Safety at: (202) 493-6313.

### 1.2.2 Annual Reports to FRA

Railroads must submit to FRA an annual report of employee hours worked and casualties by State on Form FRA F 6180.56. The report must be included with the railroad's monthly submission for December. See § 225.21(d).

### 1.2.3 Monthly Reports to FRA

Railroads must submit to FRA monthly reports of all reportable accidents/incidents. See § 225.11. The railroad's report must be submitted within 30 days following the month to which it applies. The report shall be made on the forms prescribed in § 225.21 in hardcopy or by means

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Title 49: Transportation

[PART 225—RAILROAD ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS: REPORTS CLASSIFICATION, AND INVESTIGATIONS](#)

**§225.9 Telephonic reports of certain accidents/incidents and other events.**

(a) *Types of accidents/incidents and other events to be reported*—(1) *Certain deaths or injuries*. Each railroad must report immediately, as prescribed in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section, whenever it learns of the occurrence of an accident/incident arising from the operation of the railroad, or an event or exposure that may have arisen from the operation of the railroad, that results in the—

- (i) Death of a rail passenger or a railroad employee;
- (ii) Death of an employee of a contractor to a railroad performing work for the railroad on property owned, leased, or maintained by the contracting railroad; or
- (iii) Death or injury of five or more persons.

(2) *Certain train accidents or train incidents*. Each railroad must report immediately, as prescribed in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section, whenever it learns of the occurrence of any of the following events that arose from the operation of the railroad:

- (i) A train accident that results in serious injury to two or more train crewmembers or passengers requiring their admission to a hospital;
- (ii) A train accident resulting in evacuation of a passenger train;
- (iii) A fatality resulting from a train accident or train incident at a highway-rail grade crossing when death occurs within 24 hours of the accident/incident;
- (iv) A train accident resulting in damage (based on a preliminary gross estimate) of \$150,000 or more to railroad and nonrailroad property; or
- (v) A train accident resulting in damage of \$25,000 or more to a passenger train, including railroad and nonrailroad property.

(3) *Train accidents on or fouling passenger service main lines*. The dispatching railroad must report immediately, as prescribed in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section, whenever it learns of the occurrence of any train accident reportable as a rail equipment accident/incident under §§225.11 and 225.19(c)—

- (i) That involves a collision or derailment on a main line that is used for scheduled passenger service; or
- (ii) That fouls a main line used for scheduled passenger service.

(b) *Method of reporting*. (1) Telephonic reports required by this section shall be made by toll-free telephone to the National Response Center, Area Code 800-424-8802 or 800-424-0201.

(2) Through one of the same telephone numbers (800-424-0201), the National Response Center (NRC) also receives notifications of rail accidents for the National Transportation Safety Board (49 CFR part 840) and the Research and Special Programs Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR 171.15). FRA Locomotive Safety Standards require certain locomotive accidents to be reported by telephone to the NRC at the same toll-free number (800-424-0201). 49 CFR 229.17.

(c) *Contents of report*. Each report must state the:

- (1) Name of the railroad;

(2) Name, title, and telephone number of the individual making the report;

(3) Time, date, and location of the accident/incident;

(4) Circumstances of the accident/incident;

(5) Number of persons killed or injured; and

(6) Available estimates of railroad and non-railroad property damage.

(d) *Timing of report.* (1) To the extent that the necessity to report an accident/incident depends upon a determination of fact or an estimate of property damage, a report will be considered immediate if made as soon as possible following the time that the determination or estimate is made, or could reasonably have been made, whichever comes first, taking into consideration the health and safety of those affected by the accident/incident, including actions to protect the environment.

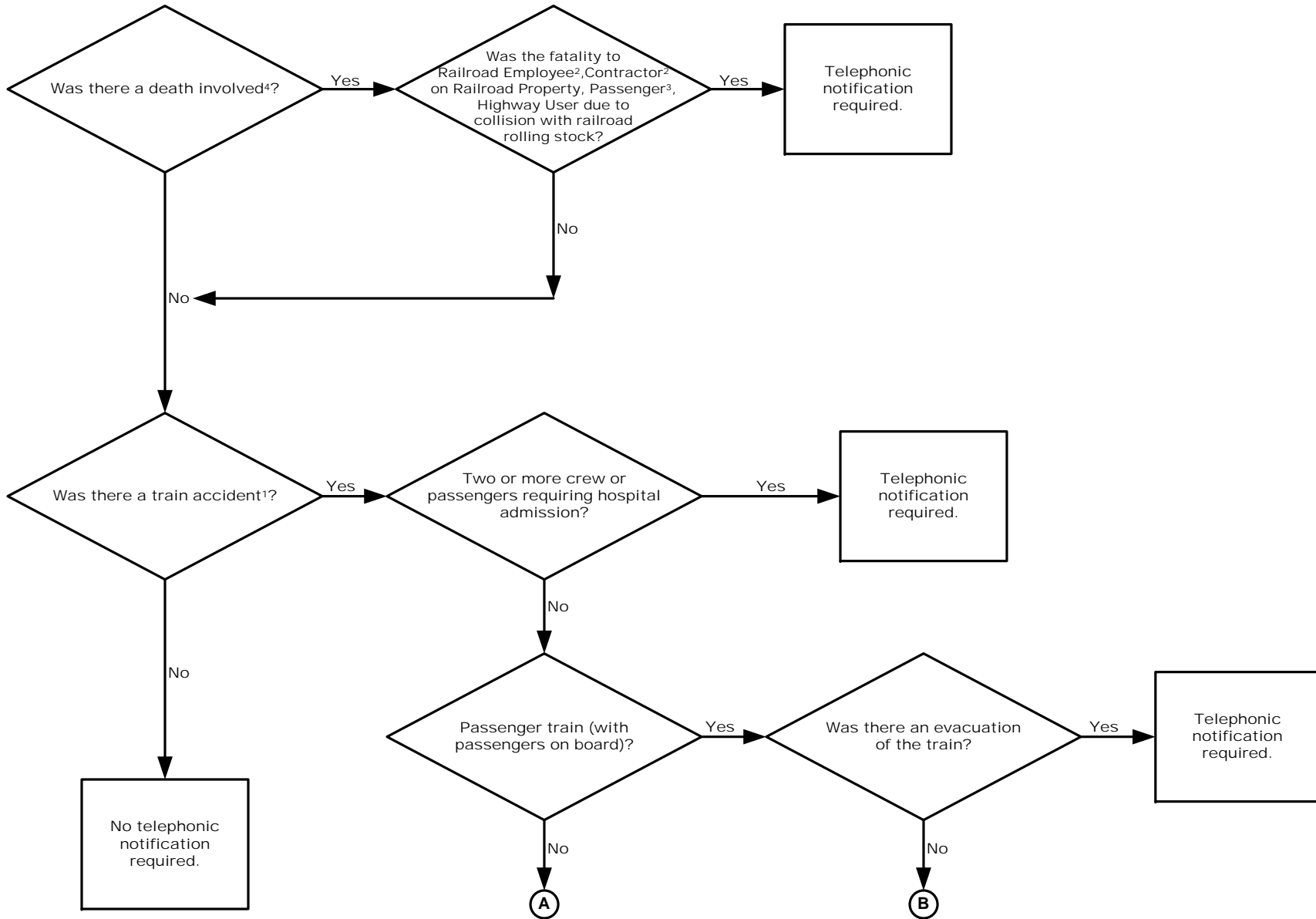
(2) NTSB has other specific requirements regarding the timeliness of reporting. See 49 CFR part 840.

[68 FR 10138, Mar. 3, 2003, as amended at 75 FR 68905, Nov. 9, 2010]

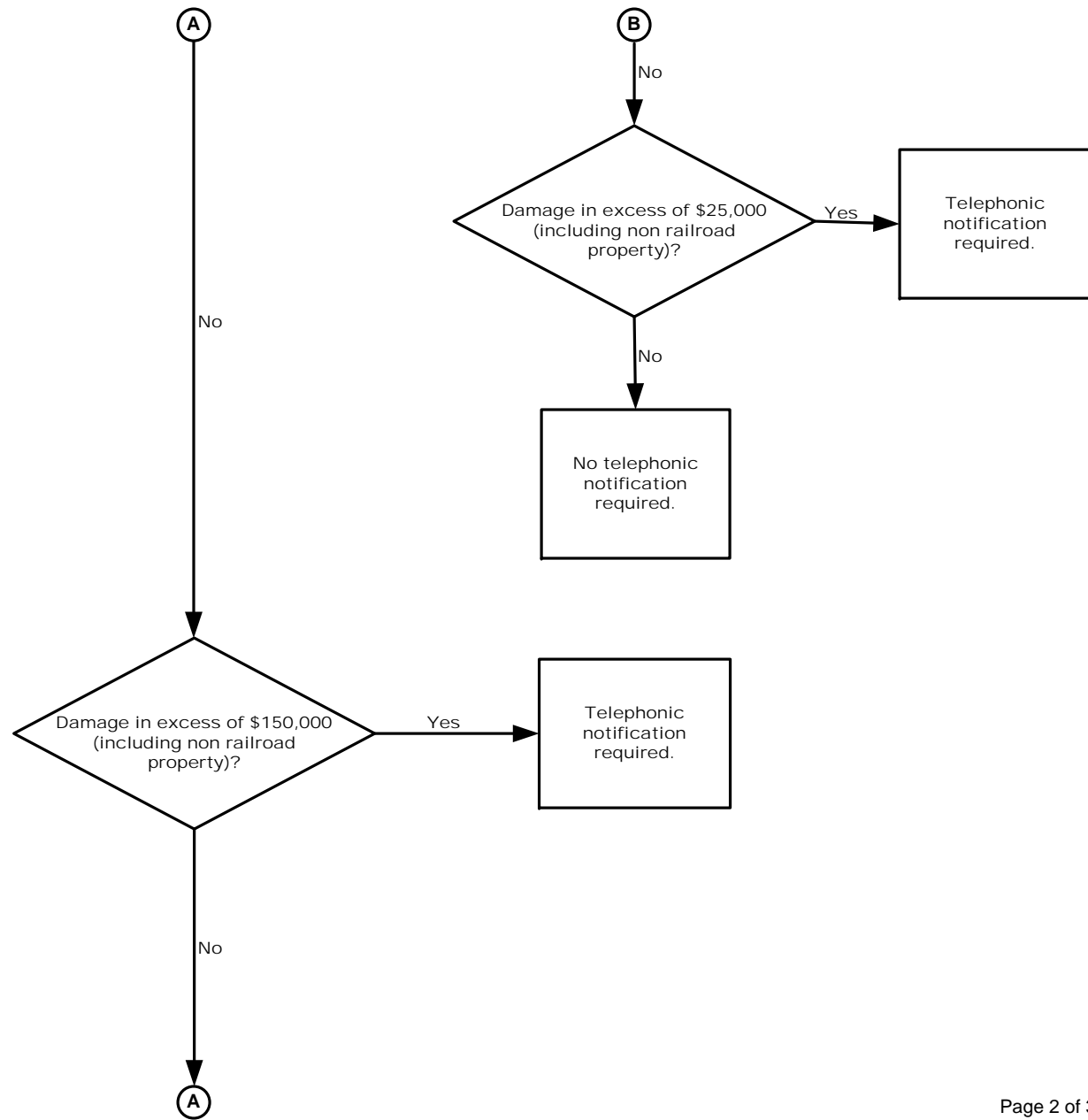
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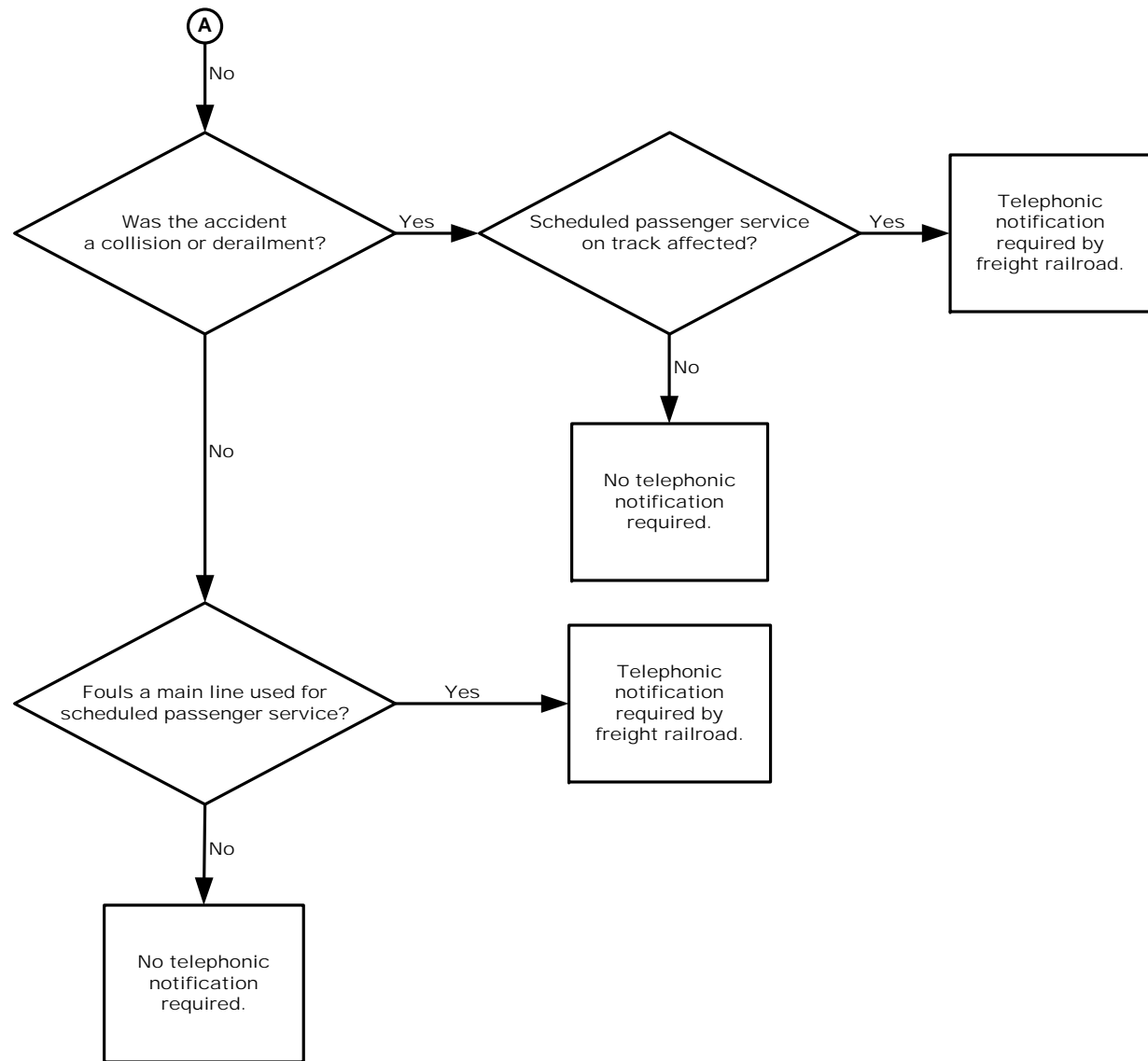
# Is Telephone Notification Required?



Is Telephone Notification Required?  
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Is Telephone Notification Required?  
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<sup>1</sup> Using the FRA Criteria for determination of an accident.

<sup>2</sup> Even due to natural causes not related to rail operations, later the railroad may deem the fatality is not reportable to the FRA.

<sup>3</sup> See FRA Definition.

<sup>4</sup> Within 24 hours of the event, see instructions.



### § 171.15 Immediate notice of certain hazardous materials incidents.

(a) *General.* As soon as practical but no later than 12 hours after the occurrence of any incident described in paragraph (b) of this section, each person in physical possession of the hazardous material must provide notice by telephone to the National Response Center (NRC) on 800-424-8802 (toll free) or 202-267-2675 (toll call) or online at <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>. Each notice must include the following information:

- (1) Name of reporter;
- (2) Name and address of person represented by reporter;
- (3) Phone number where reporter can be contacted;
- (4) Date, time, and location of incident;
- (5) The extent of injury, if any;
- (6) Class or division, proper shipping name, and quantity of hazardous materials involved, if such information is available; and
- (7) Type of incident and nature of hazardous material involvement and whether a continuing danger to life exists at the scene.

(b) *Reportable incident.* A telephone report is required whenever any of the following occurs during the course of transportation in commerce (including loading, unloading, and temporary storage):

(1) As a direct result of a hazardous material—

(i) A person is killed;

(ii) A person receives an injury requiring admittance to a hospital;

(iii) The general public is evacuated for one hour or more;

(iv) A major transportation artery or facility is closed or shut down for one hour or more; or

(v) The operational flight pattern or routine of an aircraft is altered;

(2) Fire, breakage, spillage, or suspected radioactive contamination occurs involving a radioactive material (see also §176.48 of this subchapter);

(3) Fire, breakage, spillage, or suspected contamination occurs involving an infectious substance other than a regulated medical waste;

(4) A release of a marine pollutant occurs in a quantity exceeding 450 L (119 gallons) for a liquid or 400 kg (882 pounds) for a solid;

(5) A situation exists of such a nature ( e.g. , a continuing danger to life exists at the scene of the incident) that, in the judgment of the person in possession of the hazardous material, it should be reported to the NRC even though it does not meet the criteria of paragraphs (b)(1), (2), (3) or (4) of this section; or

(6) During transportation by aircraft, a fire, violent rupture, explosion or dangerous evolution of heat ( i.e. , an amount of heat sufficient to be dangerous to packaging or personal safety to include charring of packaging, melting of packaging, scorching of packaging, or other evidence) occurs as a direct result of a battery or battery-powered device.

(c) *Written report.* Each person making a report under this section must also make the report required by §171.16 of this subpart.

Note to §171.15: Under 40 CFR 302.6, EPA requires persons in charge of facilities (including transport vehicles, vessels, and aircraft) to report any release of a hazardous substance in a quantity equal to or greater than its reportable quantity, as soon as that person has knowledge of the release, to DOT's National Response Center at (toll free) 800-424-8802 or (toll) 202-267-2675.