

# ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION



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September 17, 2004  
2004-18

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Whistle Stop Train Tours Railbelt Communities: Railroad to Provide Emergency Response Training**

ANCHORAGE-The Alaska Railroad is sending railroad emergency response and safety professionals, along with a train consisting of both freight and passenger equipment, to eight railbelt communities next week. This whistle stop tour is designed to underscore the importance of emergency planning, and to provide local emergency response groups with an opportunity for hands-on training.

As a service to the communities along the ARRC right-of-way, a train will travel first to Seward, and then move north stopping at population centers to provide opportunities for local responders to drill. Demonstrations and presentations will focus on railroad and chemical information with an emphasis on what responders can expect to encounter and what they can do in the case of an emergency.

“The Alaska Railroad Whistle Stop Tour is a great opportunity to help railbelt community residents and responders open a dialogue with the Railroad,” said Marc Peterson, Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Manager. “It’s a chance for communities to learn what chemicals are transported through their areas and how the Railroad manages the risks associated with those transports.”

The tour will offer free hazmat training and the opportunity to better prepare communities for an emergency situation involving transported hazardous materials and passengers. Jim Seeberger, Director of Transportation Services, and Marc Peterson will hold classes on board a passenger car that will be part of the new whistle stop train.

“The Railroad relies on its community responders to help with incident response,” said Ernie Piper, Assistant V.P. of Health, Safety and Environment. “Coordinated training helps us all to be better prepared.”

Media and local safety coordinators are encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact Marc Peterson, ARRC, 265-2535 or [petersonm@akrr.com](mailto:petersonm@akrr.com).

### **The schedule for the training is as follows:**

Sept. 20 in Seward  
Sept. 21 at Whittier Tunnel  
Sept. 22 in Wasilla  
Sept. 23 in Talkeetna

Sept. 24 in Healy  
Sept. 25 to 26 in Fairbanks  
Sept 28 and 29 in Anchorage