

ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION



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2006 Whistle Stop Tour Prepares Safety Professionals along the Railbelt

ANCHORAGE-Residents and emergency responders along the Railbelt will receive hands-on safety and emergency preparedness training from Alaska Railroad and State of Alaska safety professionals when the 2006 Alaska Railroad Corporation's (ARRC) Whistle Stop Train pulls into their communities this April.

As a service to 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 learn about rail equipment, attend classes in on-board classrooms, and even drill with railroad safety professionals. Training will focus on passenger train accident emergency response, hazardous material incident emergency response and railroad response safety. Representatives from the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation are also participating as trainers with the DEC perspective.

The Alaska Railroad has invited Alaska Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to present critical information regarding pandemic influenza preparation, with the latest information on the bird flu and community preparedness. The DHS and DHSS half-day to full-day sessions will involve classroom lecture and a table-top exercise with interactive discussions that pose "What if, then..." scenarios.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for everyone involved, because emergency preparedness and emergency response involves all of us." said Marc Peterson, Manager, ARRC Environmental Services and Emergency Response. "Not only is this an opportunity to provide communities with valuable information, it is an opportunity to establish relationships that will be very important should a crisis occur."

Media and local safety coordinators are encouraged to participate. For more information on course content, please contact Marc Peterson, ARRC, 907-265-2535 or peterstonm@akrr.com.

Schedule for the 2006 Whistle Stop Tour

Seward	April 3	Healy	April 10
Whittier	April 4	Nenana	April 11
Mat-Su Valley	April 5-6	Fairbanks	April 12-15
Willow	April 7	Anchorage	April 17-19
Talkeetna	April 8		