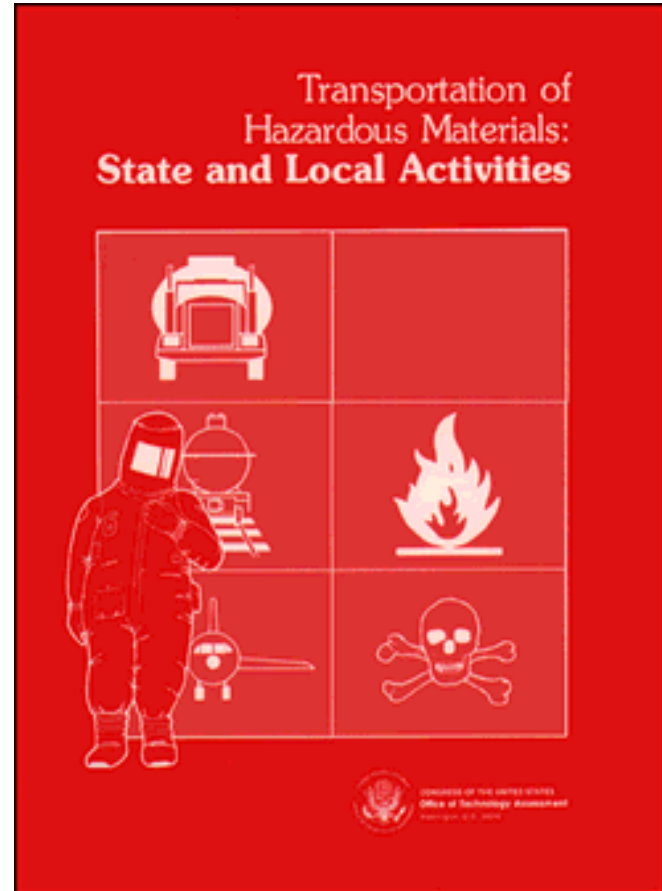


*Transportation of Hazardous Materials:  
State and Local Activities*

March 1986

NTIS order #PB86-181971



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# Foreword

First passed in 1974 and largely unchanged for the past decade, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act must be reauthorized by Congress in 1986. During the past dozen years, the transportation industries have been deregulated, the U.S. economy has weathered a major recession and recovered in a new and different form, and public awareness of possible damage from hazardous materials has been heightened by such events as the San Francisco Caldecott Tunnel fire and the thousands of deaths and injuries in Bhopal, India.

At present, no one knows for certain the total quantities and types of hazardous materials that are transported, confusion exists over how safe the transportation process is or ought to be, the public needs better information, and emergency response personnel need training. In light of these and other factors, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation requested the Office of Technology Assessment to undertake a study of the transportation of hazardous materials. The study results will be presented in two documents. This special report, *Transportation of Hazardous Materials: State and Local Activities*, is the first of the two. It summarizes Federal programs and identifies three major areas of State and local government concern: prevention and enforcement activities, emergency response and training, and planning and data gathering. The report outlines related issues, describes methods by which jurisdictions are responding to them, and documents the concerns that the Federal Government could address. The second document will be submitted to Congress in mid-1986.

OTA is pleased to provide this special report, which should be of substantial value to Congress, as well as to State and local officials and hazardous materials personnel.



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