

BACK ON TRACK

BRINGING RAIL SAFETY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

SUMMARY

Leveraging innovative technologies on the nation's rail system is the first step in ensuring rail safety. While accidents remain rare in the United States, the industry is not incident free. Even with an accident rate of less than 16 per million miles traveled in 2014, incidents still occur.

The report titled, "Back on Track: Bringing Rail Safety into the 21st Century," by the Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) catalogues and lists current technologies and practices best fit for improving rail safety.

Based on government data, the report highlights the issue of rail infrastructure and human error as the cause for 73 percent of all derailments between 2011-2014. If these issues are not addressed, incidents are likely to continue.

As freight volume continues to increase, the likelihood of hazards multiplies along with it. It is important to utilize innovative rail technologies along with optimized inspection procedures to ensure maximum safety on American railways.

QUICK FACTS

- 5,303 total train derailments from 2011-2014
- 72% of derailments from 2011 - 2014 resulted from two factors - human error and track integrity
- 10.3% increase in all shipments on rail between 2009-2014

Source: Federal Railroad Administration



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