

FRA Briefing

for the Talking Freight Webinar



June 17, 2015

Karl Alexy

Staff Director – Hazardous Materials

Office of Railroad Safety



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

FRA'S OFFICE OF RAILROAD SAFETY

- ✈️ FRA inspection staff of over 400 people distributed across eight regions
- ✈️ Additional 165 inspectors employed by 28 states
- ✈️ Inspection disciplines include:
 - 🚧 Track
 - 🚧 Bridges & Structures
 - 🚧 Signal & Train Control
 - 🚧 Motive Power & Equipment
 - 🚧 Operating Practices
 - 🚧 Hazardous Materials
- ✈️ FRA works with other DOT agencies to improve highway-rail crossing safety, commuter rail safety, and hazardous material safety.

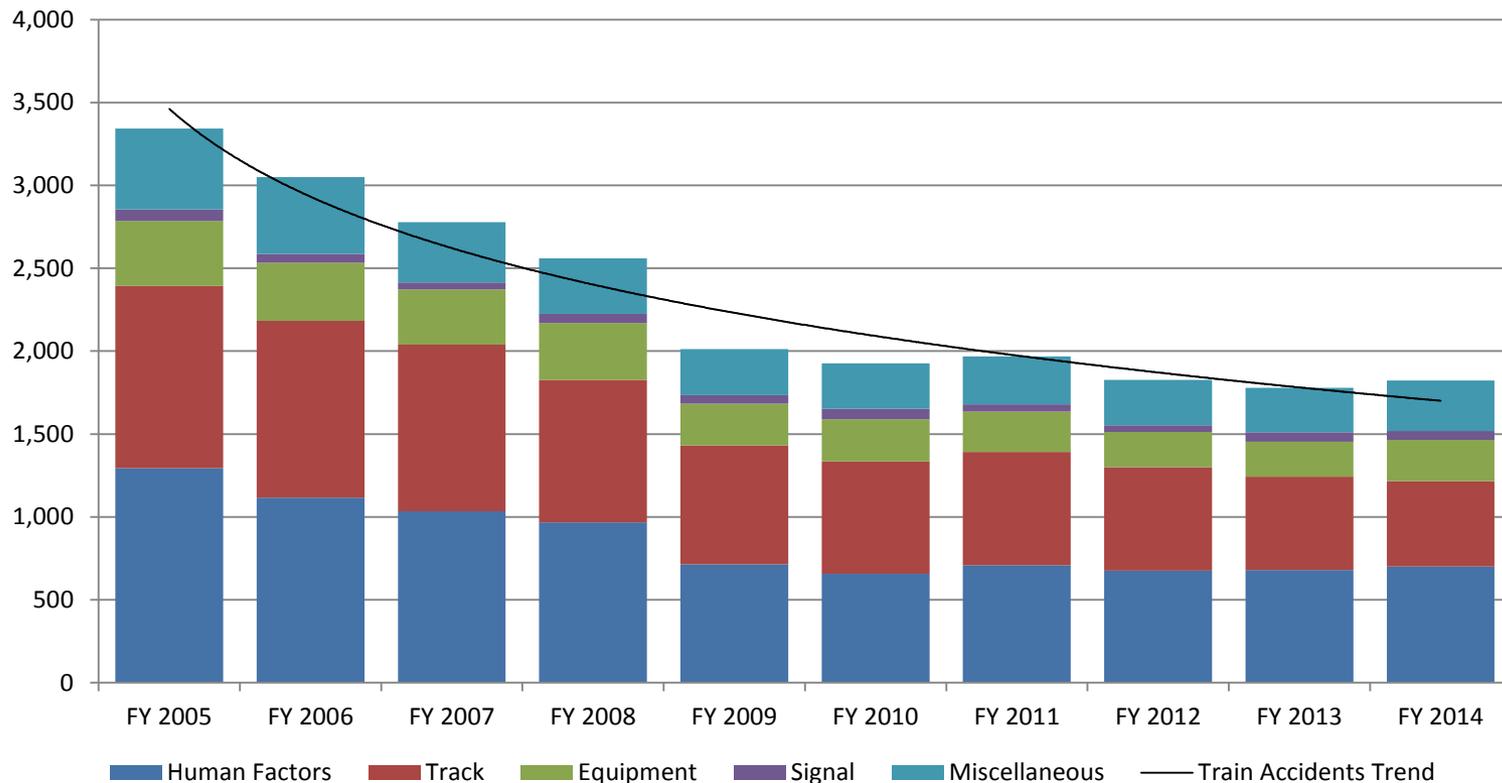


FRA MISSION/VISION



Ten-Year Trend for Accident Reductions

**Fiscal Year Representing Absolute Numbers*
 Source: FRA



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U.S. Department of Transportation
 Federal Railroad Administration

OFFICE OF RAILROAD SAFETY

- ✦ Has exclusive jurisdiction over railroad safety;
- ✦ Is preemptive; and
- ✦ Uses range of tools from regulations to safety advisories to outreach and voluntary actions.



TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



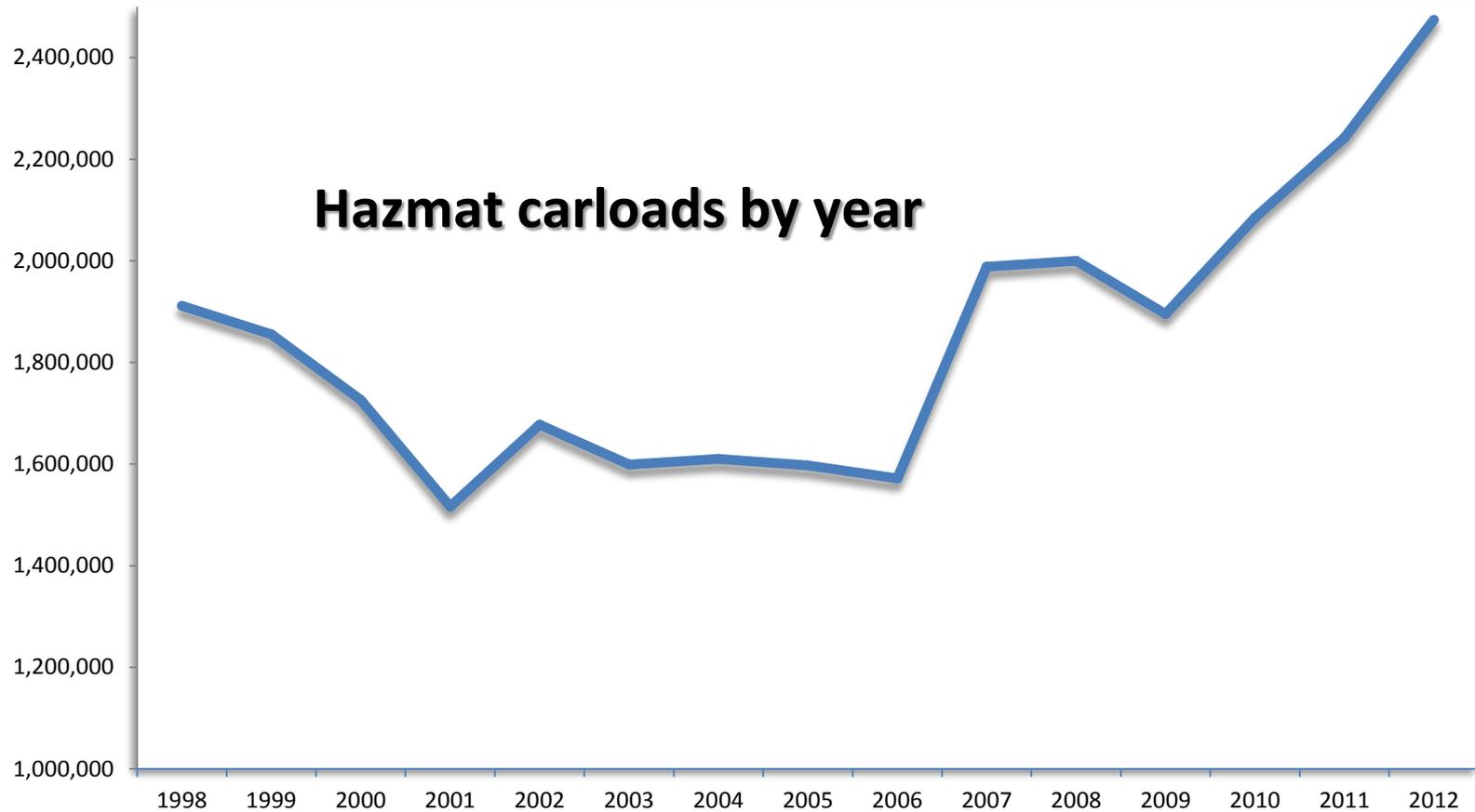
Heimdahl, ND

BNSF

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TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



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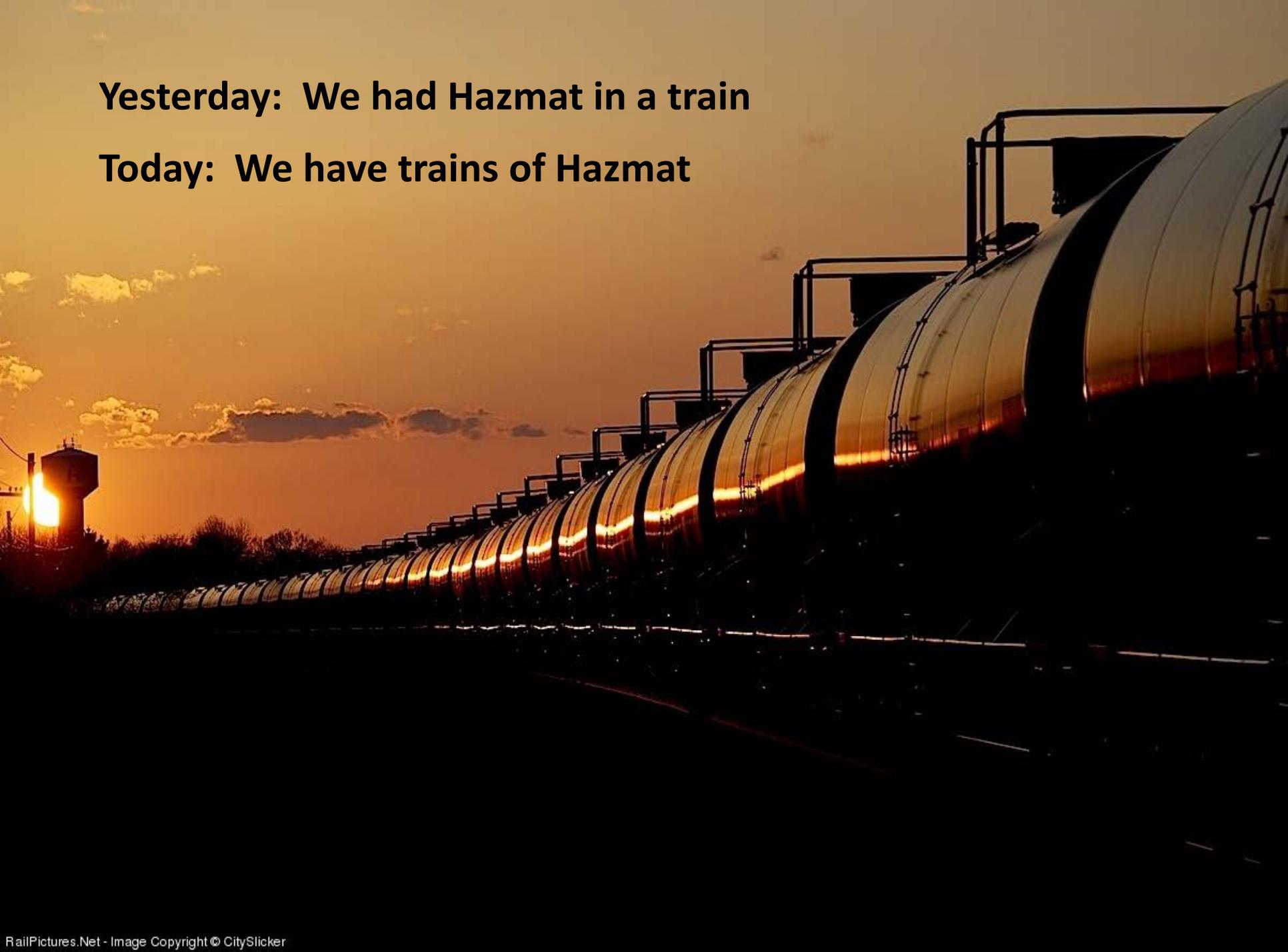
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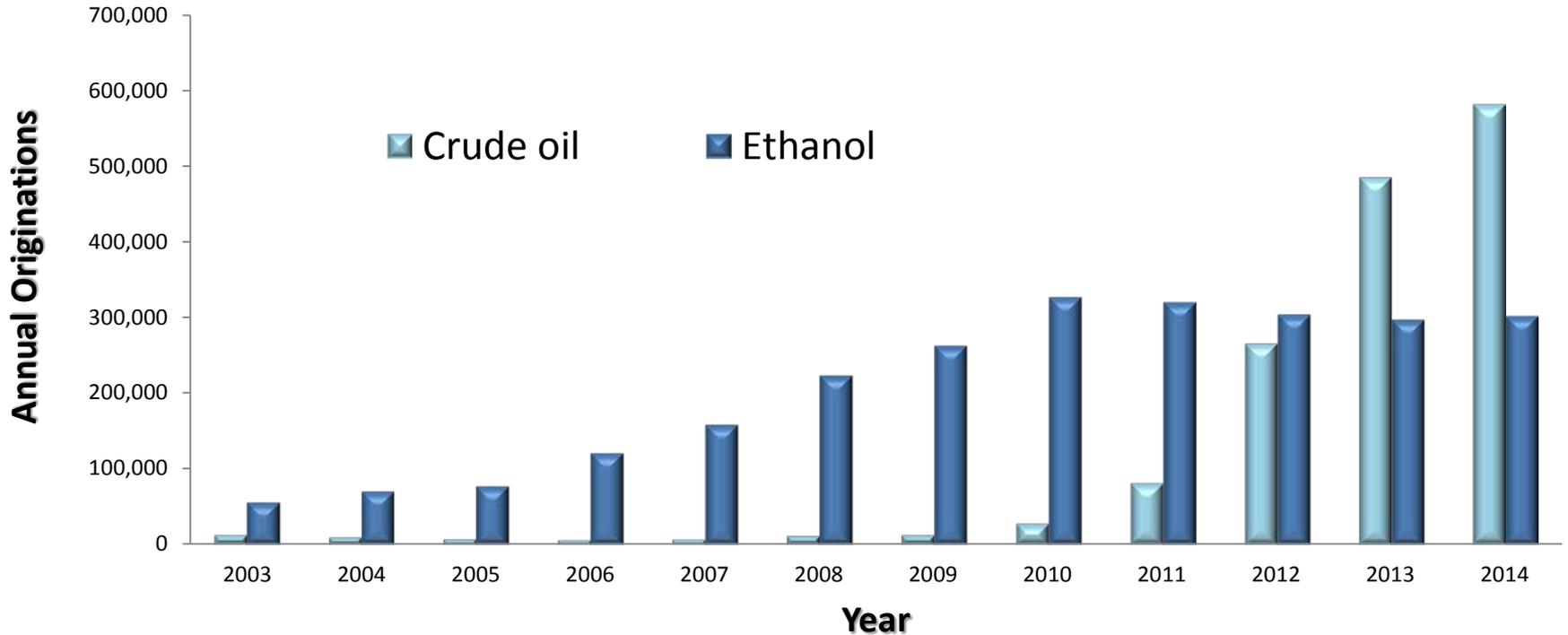
Yesterday: We had Hazmat in a train

Today: We have trains of Hazmat



NORTH AMERICAN ORIGINATIONS

Source: AAR's Annual Report of Hazmat Transported by Rail



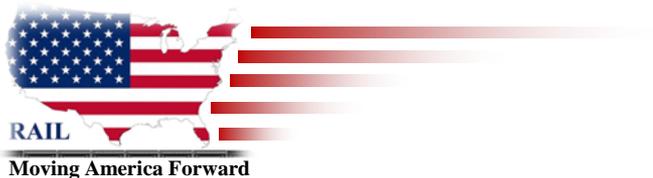
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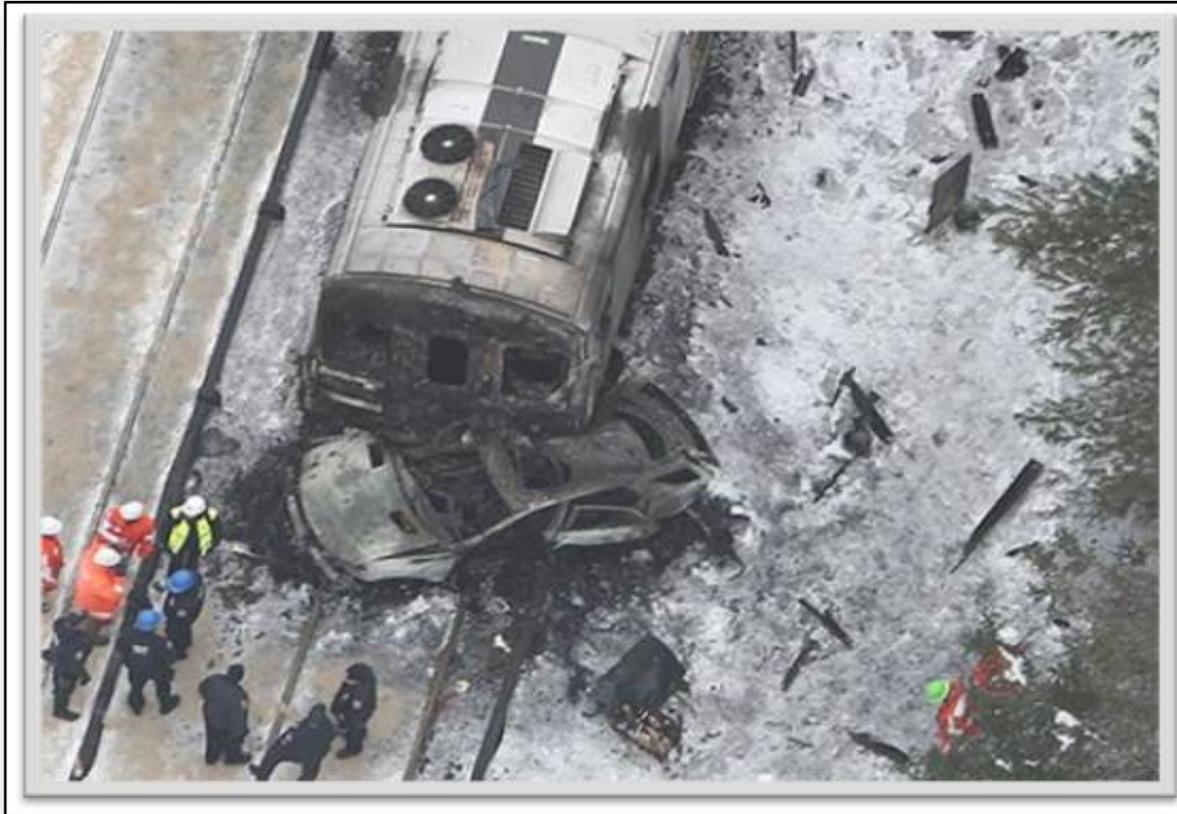
GRADE CROSSING SAFETY AND TRESPASS PREVENTION



GRADE CROSSING INITIATIVE



GRADE CROSSING AND TRESPASS PREVENTION



Valhalla, NY,
crash with SUV (Metro-North)

GRADE CROSSING AND TRESPASS PREVENTION

Crossing Safety and Trespass Fatalities in 2014

	Freight	Passenger
✖ Trespass Fatalities	– 337	– 166
✖ Crossing Fatalities	– 206	– 65
✖ Rail Employee Fatalities	– 8	– 2



TRESPASS PREVENTION

Demographic Study

- ❖ Much younger than national norms – average age at death of approximately 38.
- ❖ Railroad trespass fatalities are highly likely to be male (82 percent of the time).



TRESPASS PREVENTION

Demographic Study

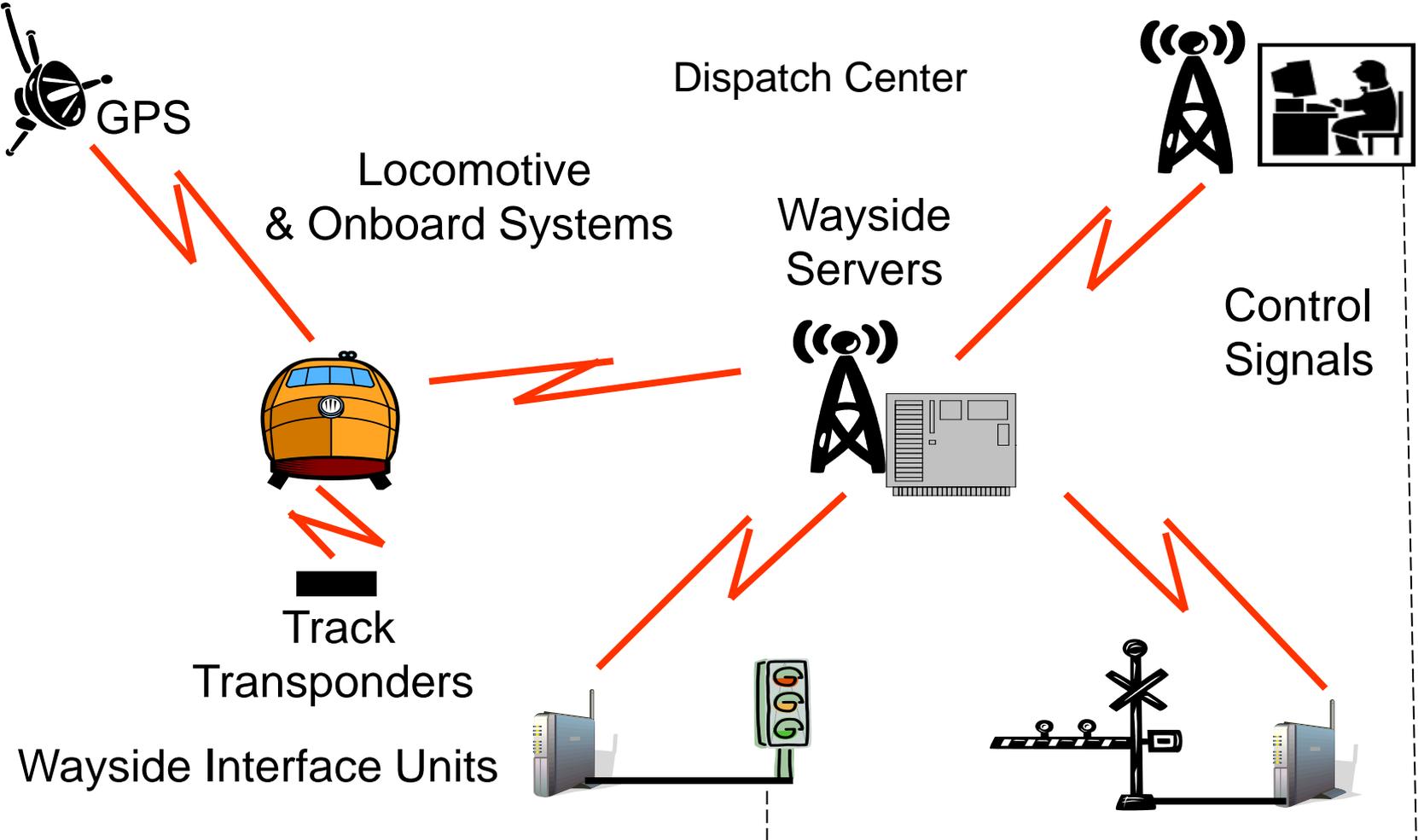
- ❖ Drugs and/or alcohol are associated with approximately half of all railroad fatalities.
- ❖ Just over one quarter (27.7 percent) of all deaths were considered suicides by the coroners.



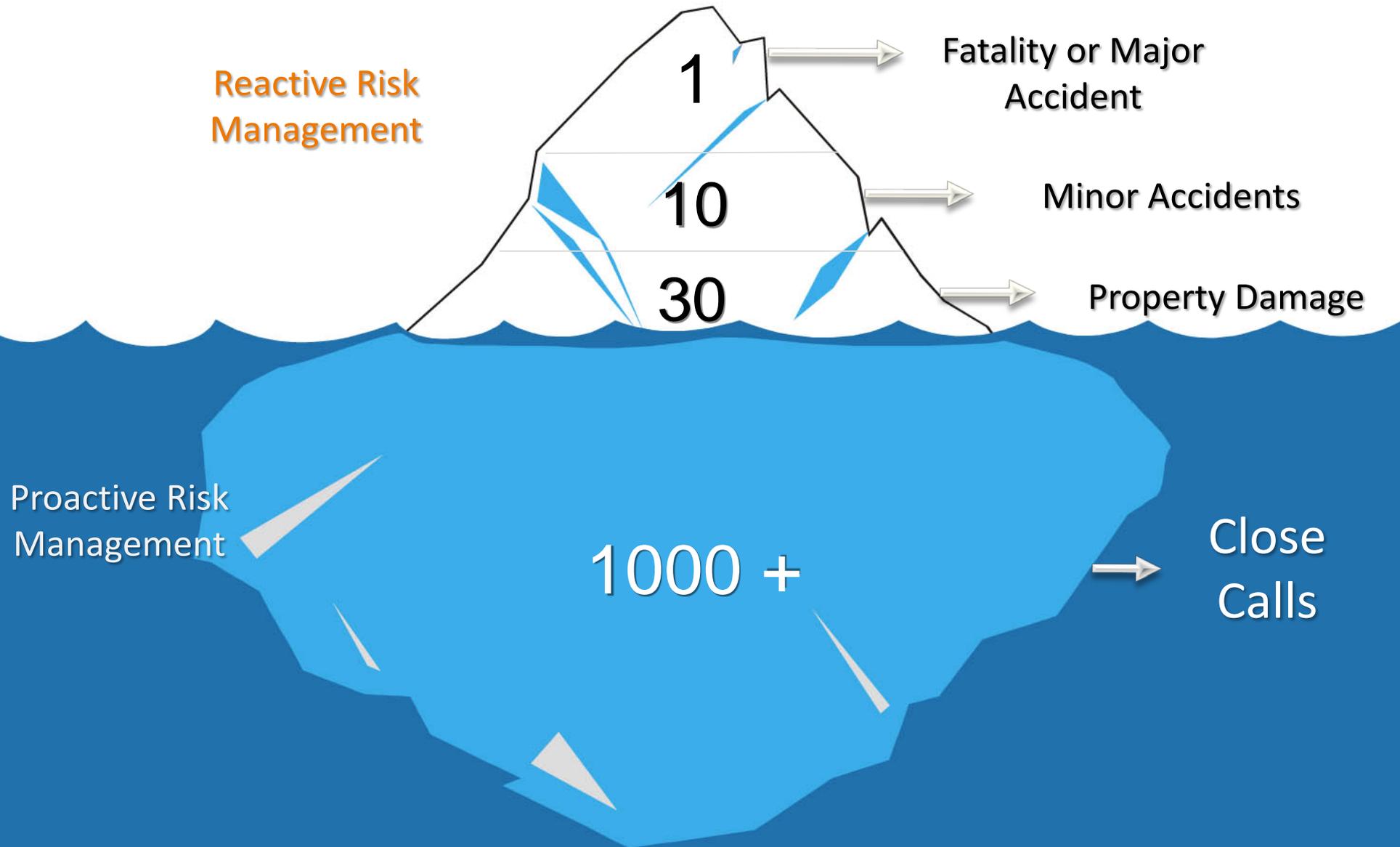
APPROACH TO GRADE CROSSING SAFETY



POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL



WHY CARE ABOUT CLOSE CALLS?



Questions



Contact:
Karl Alexy
Staff Director – Hazardous Materials
Office of Railroad Safety
karl.alexys@dot.gov
202-493- 6245