

September 1, 2026

TO: RAILROADS OPERATING IN IOWA

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE NOTIFICATIONS OF RAIL INCIDENTS, REVISED September 1, 2026

The Iowa Department of Transportation requires immediate telephone notification of certain types of rail incidents.

761—802.1(307,327C) Notification of railroad accidents or incidents.

802.1(1) *Accidents or incidents requiring notification.* Any accident or incident involving train movement that results in any of the following must be reported within 4 hours of the accident or incident to the department's traffic management center by telephone at 515.237.3300 (open year-round, 24 hours a day, including legal holidays):

- a. Fatality.
- b. Personal injury requiring hospitalization.
- c. Derailment of ten or more rail cars and locomotives.
- d. Derailment of any number of cars or locomotives when one or more are not upright.
- e. Derailment or other incident involving a railroad passenger train.
- f. Release or potential release of hazardous materials that presents a risk or potential risk to public safety, including injury, fatality, evacuation or shelter-in-place of persons.
- g. Damage to public or private transportation infrastructure not owned by the involved railroad.

802.1(2) *Property damage only.* Any accident or incident involving train movement that results in property damage only must be reported within 24 hours of the accident or incident in the same manner as provided in subrule [802.1\(1\)](#).

802.1(3) *Content of notice.* The notice of an accident or incident is to provide, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. Name of the railroad involved.
- b. Name and contact information of the individual calling to file the notice.
- c. Date and time the accident or incident occurred.
- d. Location of the accident or incident, described as accurately as possible, including the nearest city and the U.S. DOT crossing identification number or railroad milepost.
- e. Description of the accident or incident.
- f. Impact on motor vehicle travel, if known.
- g. Number of injuries and fatalities.
- h. Hazardous materials involved in the incident and actions taken in the event of a release.
- i. Number of rail cars derailed.

Telephone notification of incidents **not** meeting one or more of these criteria is **not required**.

This notification will fulfill your requirements to the Iowa Department of Transportation, but does not affect or modify your responsibilities to report to other governmental agencies such as local law enforcement, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), etc.



KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
CHRIS COURNOYER, LT. GOVERNOR

SCOTT MARLER, IOWA DOT DIRECTOR
MELISSA GILLETT, IOWA DOT COO

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MODAL TRANSPORTATION BUREAU
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Ames, IA 50010
(515) 239-1653
www.iowadot.gov

If you or your Motor Carrier Contractor requires an oversize/overweight permit an application is available at:
[Get Oversize & Overweight Permits | Department of Transportation](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amanda" and last name "Martin" clearly distinguishable.

Amanda Martin
Director, Rail Section, Modal Transportation Bureau
Iowa DOT
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