

## Emergency Movement of Commercial Motor Vehicle

### **Description:**

A U.S. DOT regulation provides basic guidelines for moving a commercial motor vehicle containing hazardous materials in an emergency.

### **Regulatory Reference**

49 CFR § 177.823 Movement of motor vehicles in emergency situations

### **Applies to:**

The regulation applies to any commercial motor vehicle that contains hazardous material.

### **General Requirements:**

49 CFR § 177.823 Movement of motor vehicles in emergency situations

- (a) A carrier may not move a transport vehicle containing a hazardous material unless the vehicle is marked and placarded in accordance with part 172 or as authorized in §171.12a of this subchapter, or unless, in an emergency:
  - (1) The vehicle is escorted by a representative of a state or local government;
  - (2) The carrier has permission from the Department; or
  - (3) Movement of the transport vehicle is necessary to protect life or property.
- (b) Disposition of contents of cargo tank when unsafe to continue. In the event of a leak in a cargo tank of such a character as to make further transportation unsafe, the leaking vehicle should be removed from the traveled portion of the highway and every available means employed for the safe disposal of the leaking material .... Smoking, and any other source of ignition, in the vicinity of a leaking cargo tank is not permitted.
- (c) Movement of leaking cargo tanks. A leaking cargo tank may be transported only the minimum distance necessary to reach a place where the contents of the tank or compartment may be disposed of safely. Every available means must be utilized to prevent the leakage or spillage of the liquid upon the highway.

### **Training Requirements:**

Although the regulation of emergency movement of motor vehicles in an emergency situation does not give a specific training requirement, handling vehicle emergencies is an integral part of general safety training and function-specific training for drivers of commercial motor vehicles transporting LP-gas.

### **Additional Information and Resources**

*Propane Delivery, Certification Area 2.0, Certified Employee Training Program, National Propane Gas Association, Lisle, IL*

*Initial OSHA and DOT Training: For the Handling and Transport of Hazardous Materials, Propane Education and Research Council, Washington, DC*