

Transportation Routes for EHS

The LEPC is required to identify routes likely to be used in the transport of EHS.

DeKalb County is largely a rural county, but with a major state university, several railroad lines extending to Chicago, and several pipelines transversing the county. This report will analyze the types of transportation used.

The following types of transportation have been identified by the LEPC:

- Roads
- Railroads
- Pipelines
- Air

Roads

DeKalb County is centrally located in northern Illinois, 60 miles west of Chicago and approximately 45 miles southeast of Rockford. Its location thus puts it on routes between the top three largest cities in Illinois. Roadway transportation is a major method of transporting EHS. We have identified three different types of roadways that would be used to transport EHS.

Interstate and Other Major Highways:

Major Roadways and the towns they pass through (I = Interstate, US = U.S. Highway, SR = Illinois State Route)

- I-88 - East/West - From Chicago and Aurora going to I-39 and Davenport IA.
Goes through DeKalb City and just south of Maple Park, Cortland and Malta.
- US 30 - East/West - From Chicago and Aurora going to I-39, Rock Falls and Clinton IA.
Goes through Hinckley, Waterman, Shabbona and just south of Lee.
- US 34 -East/West - From Chicago and Yorkville going to I-39, I-80, Galesburg, and Burlington IA.
Goes through Sandwich and Somonauk.

- SR 23 - North/South - From Harvard, Marengo and I-20 going to I-80 and Ottawa.

Goes through Genoa, Sycamore, DeKalb City, Waterman and west of Somonauk.

- SR 38 - East/West - From Chicago and Geneva/St. Charles going to I-39, Rochelle and Dixon.

Goes through Maple Park, Cortland, DeKalb City and Malta.

- SR 64 - From Chicago and St. Charles going to I-39, Oregon and Savanna.

Goes through Sycamore.

- SR 72 - East/West - From Chicago going to I-39 and Byron.

Goes through Genoa, Kingston, Kirkland and Fairdale.

As of this revision (2019), DeKalb County does not restrict vehicular traffic aside from the State of Illinois' size and weight restrictions.

DeKalb County Roads with an 80,000 pounds limit are;

Barber Greene Road – From SR 23 to Peace Road

Chicago Road – SR 23 to Somonauk Road

East County Line Road – SR 64 to SR 38

Genoa Road – From Boone County Line Road and I-90 to Genoa

Peace Road – From Pleasant Street to SR 64

Shabbona Road – From Mullins Grain (Shabbona) south to US 30

Somonauk Road – From SR 28 north to Landfill (Cortland)

West County Line Road – From Lee Road to US 30

Many shipments of EHS are in transit through the region. Quantities can range from small shipments to tank cars. It is possible that any EHS could be shipped through the region. Typical accidents can include ruptured fuel tanks, low overhead clearance accidents, and collisions.

Major accidents often result in highway closures and traffic control. This can cause a large disruption in traffic and cause a large short-term economic impact. In addition, an accidental release of a large quantity could result in protective action for the vicinity, including possible evacuation and sheltering of residents.

Emergency response may include activating the area's Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), and coordinating highway closures with the Illinois State Police and DeKalb Co. Sheriff's Police, along with the other various law enforcement agencies in the county, and the DeKalb Co. Highway Department, and other public works agencies.

Major Streets, Designated Truck Routes, and Established Shipments:

Many EHS shipments originate, traverse or terminate in DeKalb County. Industrial areas are usually served by truck traffic routes along major streets. Quantities can range from small shipments to tank cars. Any EHS could be shipped to a facility. Typical accidents include ruptured fuel tanks, low overhead clearance accidents, and collisions.

Major accidents often include street closures and traffic control. This may disrupt local traffic patterns. In addition, an accidental release of Hazardous Material could result in protective action for the vicinity.

Emergency response may include activating the area's MABAS system. Street closures may involve local police departments and emergency management agencies.

Other Routes:

Downtown business districts and residential areas, generally have infrequent EHS shipments. These shipments are usually limited to small quantities to local businesses. Typical accidents include ruptured fuel tanks, low overhead clearance accidents, low speed collisions, and loading and unloading accidents.

Accidents and small releases are usually handled by the local Hazardous Materials unit coordinated by the DeKalb City Fire Department. Generally, the size and severity of the accidental release would not require extensive street closures or large scale protective actions.

Railroads

DeKalb County has five major railroad lines through it, serving as east-west routes from Chicago to points west, and one branch route. For each we list the current owner and their web site, plus other names by which these lines are often identified on maps. Except as indicated, these are exclusively freight routes. From north to south, the major lines are (with the towns they pass through):

- Chicago Central & Pacific, controlled by Canadian National RR (www.cn.ca). Formerly known as the Illinois Central Gulf. Runs southeast-northwest through Burlington [Kane County] and Charter Grove, Genoa, and Colvin Park to Rockford [Winnebago].
 - Genoa

- . Iowa Chicago & Eastern (www.icerail.com). Formerly the Soo Line, and before that the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific ("Milwaukee Road"). Still known further east as the Metra Milwaukee West Line from the Chicago area. Runs east-west through Hampshire [Kane County] and New Lebanon, Genoa, Kingston, Kirkland and Fairdale, to Byron [Ogle] and Savanna [Carroll]. All road crossings in DeKalb County are at grade level, including four on local streets within Genoa.
 - Genoa
 - Kingston
 - Kirkland
 - Fairdale
 - New Lebanon

- . Union Pacific (www.up.com). Formerly the Chicago, Northwestern & Pacific. Parallels SR 38 east-west, through Elburn [Kane County], Maple Park, Cortland, DeKalb and Malta to Dixon [Lee], Sterling [Whiteside] and Clinton IA. It crosses SR 38 at grade level in mid-town DeKalb city, at the intersection of SR 23, along with other grade level local street and road crossings.
 - Maple Park
 - Cortland
 - DeKalb
 - Malta

- . Burlington Northern Santa Fe (www.bnsf.com). Formerly the Chicago Burlington & Quincy, then the Burlington Northern. Parallels US 30 east-west, through Hinckley, Waterman, Shabbona and then northwest through Lee to Savanna [Carroll County].
 - Hinckley
 - Waterman
 - Shabbona
 - Lee

The last two railroads cross in Rochelle [Ogle County].

- . Burlington Northern Santa Fe (www.bnsf.com). Parallels US 34 roughly northeast-southwest, through Sandwich and Somonauk to Galesburg. This line provides both passenger and freight service. The two BNSF lines originate in Chicago, and split off from each other at the Eola Yard near Aurora [Kane County].
 - Sandwich
 - Somonauk

Amtrak passenger service also on this line, between Chicago and Mendota and points west.

- . A Union Pacific spur route from DeKalb city towards the southwest (Belvidere branch) through Elva, McGirr, Shabbona Grove and Rollo, merging with the BNSF line through Sandwich near Earlville [LaSalle County].
 - DeKalb
 - Elva
 - McGirr
 - Shabbona Grove
 - Rollo

Quantities can range from small shipments to 20,000 + gallon tank cars.

It is possible that any EHS could be shipped through the region. Possible accident types include ruptured fuel tanks, derailments, collisions, and low overhead clearance accidents. Major accidents often include highway closures and traffic control. This can cause a large disruption in traffic and cause a large short-term economic impact. In addition, an accidental release of a Hazardous Material could result in protective action for the vicinity.

Emergency response may include activating the area's mutual aid box alarm system (MABAS), and coordinating highway closures with the Illinois State Police, DeKalb County Sheriff's Police and Department of Transportation.

Pipelines

There are several transmission pipelines that run through DeKalb County. These include:

- . Natural gas pipelines, both supplying and traversing the county, and
- . Petroleum products pipelines traversing the county.

Pipelines generally do not contain EHS, but they are included here as a facility that could contribute to additional risk. The LEPC maintains a list of Pipeline Emergency contacts. All pipe lines in DeKalb County were mapped and updated in (2018) by Vice Chair Paul Cassidy and kept on file at the DeKalb County LEPC and DeKalb County Government.

Air

DeKalb County is directly in the path of east-west air traffic traveling to and from Chicago through O'Hare and Midway airports.

Airplanes may carry EHS, but they are regulated as "Dangerous Goods" by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The size, quantity, and packaging of dangerous goods are strictly controlled. The physical hazard from a plane crash and the resulting fuel fire would virtually outweigh any hazard from the cargo on board.

Additional Facilities

The LEPC is required to identify other facilities that contribute to additional risk as well as identify other facilities that are subjected to additional risk due to proximity to facilities that store EHS.

Facilities that Contribute to Additional Risk

The LEPC has determined any facility that files stores Hazardous Material may contribute to additional risk.

The LEPC has also determined that pipeline facilities may contribute to additional risk. See the pipeline section above.

Facilities that are Subjected to Additional Risk

The LEPC has determined that the following facilities may be subjected to additional risk due to their proximity to an EHS and/or Hazardous Material facility or transportation route.

Hospitals:

Three hospitals in DeKalb County, Kishwaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb, Valley West Hospital in Sandwich, and Kindred Hospital in Sycamore have been identified.

Universities:

Both Northern Illinois University in DeKalb and Kishwaukee College near Malta have been identified.

Government Buildings:

We are in the process of obtaining addresses and contacts for the Municipal Government in DeKalb County, including Mayor, Fire, Police, Emergency Management, and Public Works departments.

Schools (Public and Private):

We have obtained addresses and phone numbers for every known public and private school in DeKalb County.

Nursing Homes:

We have obtained address and contact information for every known Nursing Home in DeKalb County. We will also obtain the number of licensed beds at the facility.

Daycare Centers and Homes:

We have obtained addresses for every known Daycare Center and Home in DeKalb County.

Parks and Recreation Departments

The following parks and recreation departments are in DeKalb County:

- DeKalb County - DeKalb Co. Forest Preserve
- DeKalb City
- Genoa
- Hinckley
- Sycamore
- Waterman
- State of Illinois - Lake Shabbona
- City of Sandwich.

Other At-Risk Facilities

The LEPC will continue to identify and collect information on other types of facilities at risk.

Phone Numbers

DeKalb County Sheriff's Police will maintain emergency phone numbers on;

- IEMA
- Illinois State Police
- DeKalb City Police
- NIU Police
- All Railroads
- All DeKalb County Departments