

Emergency officials and first responders depend on the placards on rail cars whenever there is a derailment or other accident which results in the leakage of materials from the cars. If not for the placards, valuable time would be lost before officials knew what substance they were dealing with. First responders often don't have the luxury of taking that time in life and death situations.

Terrorists have struck trains in Spain and Japan, and both times it was a passenger train and not a freight train. If a terrorist group is targeting a train hauling chemicals, it hardly needs to know the specific chemicals. It is difficult to believe a train would be targeted for a specific chemical and not chemicals in general. And if they wanted to target a specific chemical train, all they would need to do is observe a chemical plant for a period of time.

The suggestion to color code tank cars to let first responders know what the contents are would confuse first responders and/or not fool the terrorists!!

The chance of a terrorist attack on a chemical train is far less than the odds of the same train being involved in an accident or derailment.

We owe it to the public and the first responders to leave the placards on the sides of the rail cars. Taking this readily available and valuable information away from our emergency responders is simply too great a risk, especially in light of the numerous other ways terrorists could gain the same information.