

People who live close to an active freight rail line are justifiably worried about possible derailments. Who is responsible for reducing the risk and ensuring the safety of the surrounding community?

From the Minnesota Department of Transportation:

Railroads have strict requirements from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to monitor track conditions, equipment conditions and employee behavior. Given this FRA oversight, the risk of a derailment is minimized. The State of Minnesota participates in the Federal Inspector program and has a track inspector who is responsible for inspecting track conditions within the state. This track inspector supplements the inspectors provided by the FRA.