

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: March 8, 1979

Forwarded to:
Mr. C. K. Bernard
General Manager
Bay Area Rapid Transit District
800 Madison Street
Oakland, California 94607

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)
R-79-12 and -13

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the fire on train 117 in the Transbay Tube on January 17, 1979, in conjunction with an investigative team appointed by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART). The fire resulted in the death of an Oakland Fire Department officer and extensive property damage to BART.

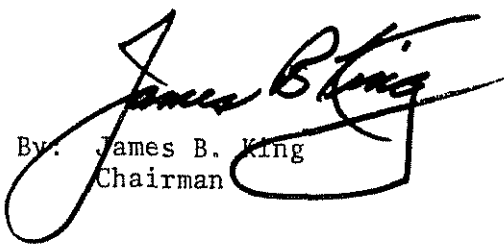
The Safety Board is concerned by the lack of securement of undercar equipment covers. Two of these equipment covers were found in the vicinity of the train which caught fire. At least one of these covers was lost from a train which had previously transited the area. The investigation showed that the damage inflicted to train 117 as it struck this cover was an instigating factor in the accident. We believe that the safety of BART passengers requires positive action to ensure that such equipment covers are in place and secured.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Bay Area Transit District:

Include in the predispatching procedure an inspection of all undercar equipment covers to assure that such equipment covers are in place and properly secured. (Class I--Urgent Action)
(R-79-12)

Provide a suitable securement mechanism for all undercar equipment covers on BART rolling stock. (Class II--Priority Action)
(R-79-13)

KING, Chairman, DRIVER, Vice Chairman, McADAMS and HOGUE, Members, concurred in the above recommendations.


By: James B. King
Chairman