

RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Federal Highway Administration:

1. Investigate and develop criteria and issue regulations for medical examinations which will serve objectively to detect individuals susceptible to sudden incapacitation, such as heart conditions, epilepsy, narcolepsy, and hypoglycemia, and which will be required at least for the initial examination of those drivers who operate buses in interstate commerce. (Recommendation H-74-36)

2. Establish regulations to facilitate evacuation of buses in an emergency. The incorporation of emergency lighting systems actuated through impact and entry for rescuers should be included in the regulation. Attention is called to the Board's investigation of the interstate bus accident in Baker, California, in 1968, in which it was recommended that "no new type buses go into service which have not been tested to insure that all occupants can escape rapidly." (Recommendation H-74-37)

3. Promulgate mandatory national performance standards for traffic barrier systems. Those standards should contain criteria for dynamic testing or analytical procedures substantiated by such tests for each design to increase the compatibility of barriers with both light and heavy vehicles. The standards should also contain requirements regarding the placement of the barriers in the field to assure that compatibility of the vehicle/barrier is not compromised by adjacent environment. (Recommendation H-74-38)

4. Require the California Department of Transportation to review existing guardrail installations to assure that, where the guardrail has been offset behind a curb or a dike, the top of the guardrail is at a height in conformance with the California standard. (Recommendation H-74-39)

BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

/s/ JOHN H. REED
Chairman

/s/ LOUIS M. THAYER
Member

/s/ ISABEL A. BURGESS
Member

/s/ WILLIAM R. HALEY
Member

Francis H. McAdams, Member, did not participate in the adoption of this report.

December 13, 1974