

SP20



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594
Safety Recommendation

Date: July 21, 1986

In reply refer to: M-86-95 and -96

Mr. Carey Fredericks
President
Ascension Parish Police Jury
Post Office Box 351
Donaldsonville, Louisiana 70346

Log. m-318c
7/20/86

About 1710, on December 12, 1985, the 382-foot-long U.S. passenger vessel *MISSISSIPPI QUEEN* and the U.S. towboat *CRIMSON GLORY* with its tow of 28 barges, approximately 1,150 feet in overall length, collided on the Mississippi River near Donaldsonville, Louisiana. The *MISSISSIPPI QUEEN* was holed and began to flood; however, the passenger vessel was grounded after the collision and all 405 passengers and crew were safely evacuated. The *CRIMSON GLORY* sustained minor damage and stood by to aid the *MISSISSIPPI QUEEN*. The estimated cost of repair to the two vessels was over \$7 million. ^{1/}

Law enforcement, medical, fire department, and civilian personnel of Ascension Parish, the local jurisdiction in which the emergency occurred, provided invaluable assistance to and transportation for the evacuees as they came ashore. However, the lack of a mutual aid pact with its neighboring jurisdictions and a pre-plan in the event of a disaster should be addressed by the Ascension Parish Police Jury, the elected governmental authority of Ascension Parish. Such contingencies should be provided because of its proximity to heavy vessel traffic on the Mississippi River and large hazardous materials manufacturing companies within the parish.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Ascension Parish Police Jury:


Develop and implement a comprehensive mutual aid pact for emergency services in cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions. (Class II, Priority Action) (M-86-95)

Develop and implement a comprehensive disaster plan in cooperation with the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness, and conduct periodic disaster drills. (Class II, Priority Action) (M-86-96)

^{1/} For more detailed information, read Marine Accident Report—"Collision Between U.S. Passenger Vessel *MISSISSIPPI QUEEN* and U.S. Towboat *CRIMSON GLORY* in the Mississippi River, near Donaldsonville, Louisiana, on December 12, 1985" (NTSB/MAR-86/09).

The National Transportation Safety Board is an independent Federal agency with the statutory responsibility ". . . to promote transportation safety by conducting independent accident investigations and by formulating safety improvement recommendations" (Public Law 93-633). The Safety Board is vitally interested in any actions taken as a result of its safety recommendations and would appreciate a response from you regarding action taken or contemplated with respect to the recommendations in this letter. Please refer to Safety Recommendations M-86-95 and -96 in your reply.

GOLDMAN, Acting Chairman, and BURNETT, LAUBER, and NALL, Members, concurred in these recommendations.


By: Patricia A. Goldman
Acting Chairman