



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Highway Safety*

# **CVSA Bus Safety Summit**

March 6, 2009

Member Debbie Hersman

# NTSB

- Independent Federal Agency
- 5-Member Board
  - President appointed, Senate confirmed
- 400 Staff
- Investigates accidents in all modes of transportation
- Determines probable cause
- Issues/Implements recommendations

# Safety Recommendations

Issued Since 1967

TOTAL = 12,536

Pipeline 1225 (9.8%)



Marine 2307  
(18.4%)



Intermodal 229 (1.8%)

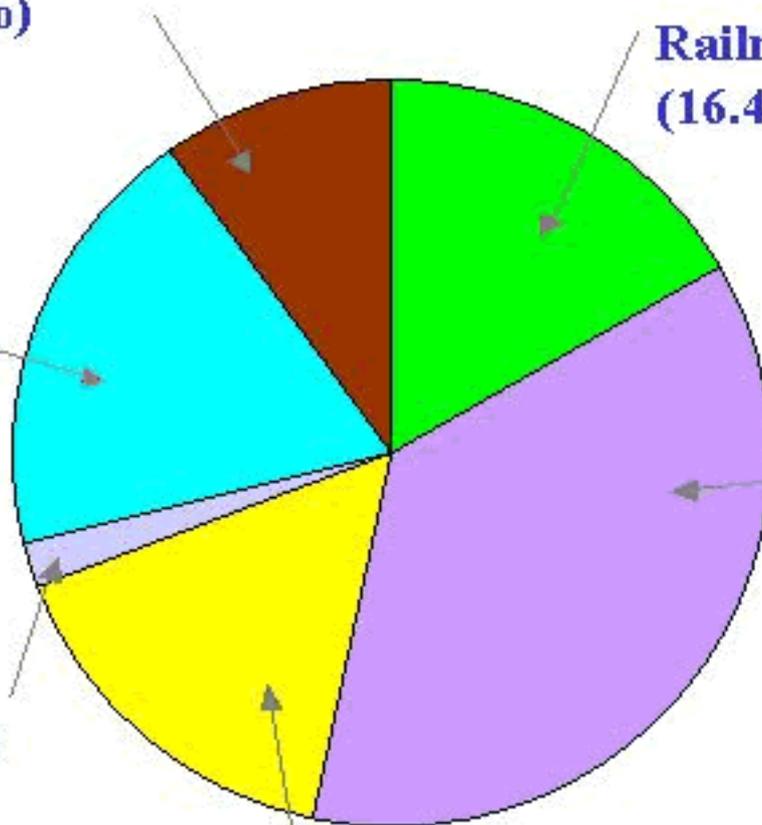


Highway 2069 (16.5%)

Railroad 2053  
(16.4%)



Aviation  
4653  
(37.1%)



November 2006

# How We Pick Accidents

- 8,200 people injured in highway accidents a day
- Approx. 42,000 fatalities per year
- We can only launch on 6 major accidents each year
- 2 teams of 6-8 investigators
- Thorough, comprehensive investigations

# How We Pick Accidents

Four basic criteria in evaluating potential highway accidents for investigation.

1. Is there high public interest?
2. Have we done it before?
3. Can we make a difference?
4. Do we have the resources?

# Most Wanted

- Significant safety recommendations
- Intensive follow-up
- Federal & States
- Issue areas
- Status & classification

## Actions needed by States

### HIGHWAY

#### Improve Child Occupant Protection

- Enact State laws requiring booster seats for young children.

#### Enact Primary Seat Belt Enforcement Laws

- Increase the number of people who wear seat belts through stronger enforcement laws.

#### Promote Youth Highway Safety

- Enact graduated driver licensing legislation.
- Restrict the number of teen passengers traveling with young novice drivers.
- Prohibit use of wireless communications devices by young novice drivers.

#### Eliminate Hard Core Drinking Driving

- Enact State legislation and take other actions that are proven to reduce crashes involving those who repeatedly drink large amounts of alcohol and drive including:
  - Frequent, statewide sobriety checkpoints.
  - Legislation to create stricter sanctions for those arrested the first time with a high blood alcohol concentration of 0.15 or higher.
  - Zero blood alcohol requirement for convicted DWI offenders when they get their license back.
  - Administrative rather than court-based license revocation for refusing to take or failing the sobriety test.
  - Vehicle sanctions for DWI offenders.
  - Eliminate plea-bargaining DWI offenses and programs that divert offenders and purge the offense record.
  - Retain DWI records for at least 10 years to identify and prosecute repeat offenders.
  - Develop and operate special sanction court-based programs for hard core DWI offenders.

### MARINE

#### Enhance Recreational Boating Safety

- Require mandatory education of boat operators.
- Require use of life jackets by children.
- Require safety instruction prior to personal watercraft rental.



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## NTSB MOST WANTED LIST

### Transportation Safety Improvements

2008

*Critical changes needed to reduce  
transportation accidents and save lives.*

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# NTSB 1999 STUDY

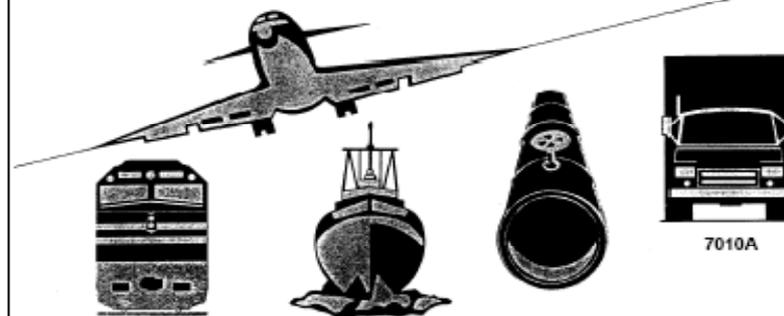
PB98-917006  
NTSB/SIR-99/04

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20594

### HIGHWAY SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

#### BUS CRASHWORTHINESS ISSUES



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# Medical Oversight

- Establish a comprehensive medical oversight program for interstate commercial drivers
- Ensure that medical examiners are qualified
- Enhance oversight & enforcement of invalid certificates
- Provide mechanisms for reporting medical conditions
- Track all medical certificate applications



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**Truck-Tractor Semitrailer  
Rollover and Motorcoach  
Collision With Overturned  
Truck, Interstate Highway 94  
Near Osseo, Wisconsin  
October 16, 2005**







DO NOT SMOKING  
DRIVE IN SERVICE OF  
CITY OF WASHINGTON  
CITY OF WASHINGTON  
CITY OF WASHINGTON  
CITY OF WASHINGTON  
CITY OF WASHINGTON

Don't  
Remember  
Name

# Safety Issues

- Operator Fatigue
- Fatigue Technologies and Countermeasures
- Collision Warning Systems

# Truck Driver Fatigue

- At most, the truck driver obtained 12.5 hours of sleep in the 2 days before the accident
- Less than 5 hours of sleep in last sleep period
- Was awake for at least 15 hours before the accident
- Sleep was disrupted by alcohol use
- Accident occurred at 1:58 a.m.

# On-Board Electronic Recorders

- Require all interstate commercial vehicle carriers to use electronic on-board recorders to collect hours-of-service data

# Motorcoach Braking

- Glen Rock, PA
  - 2-fatality dump truck accident
  - Over ten recommendations issued to FMCSA, CVSA, states, manufacturers, and training organizations
- Progress is being made

# Automatic Slack Adjustors

– Recommendations to the CVSA

- H-06-6 Closed – Acceptable Action
- H-06-7 Closed – Acceptable Action



# Collision Warning Systems





15 10 '05



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**Motorcoach Collision With  
the Alexandria Avenue  
Bridge Overpass  
George Washington  
Memorial Parkway  
Alexandria, Virginia  
November 14, 2004**



13'4"

10'2"



# Issue Areas

- Low bridge clearance
- Cellular telephone use while driving
- Collection of adequate cellular telephone accident data

# What you can do.....

- Cell phone policy
- Scheduling policy & fatigue risk management
- Training



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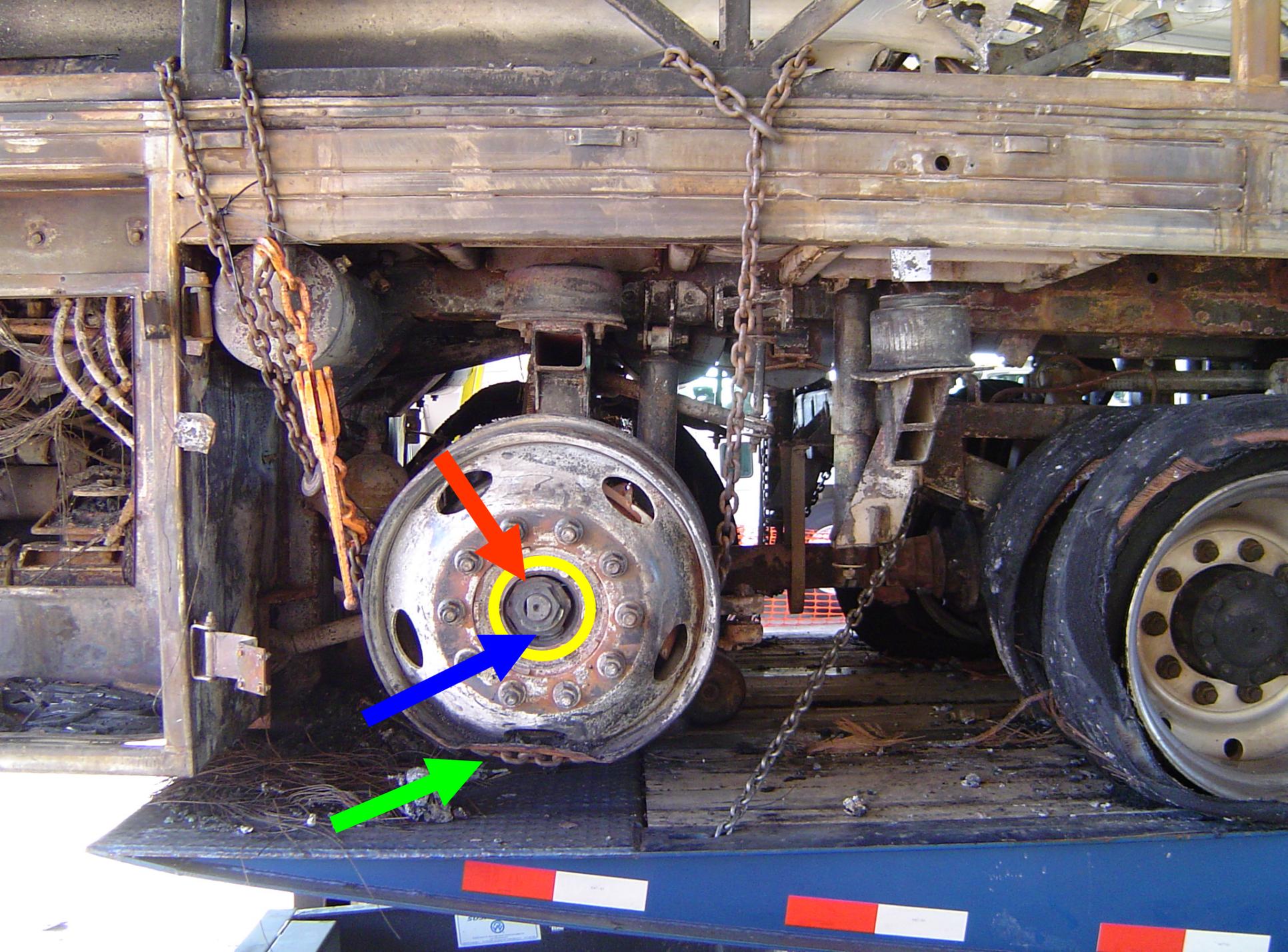
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**Motorcoach Fire  
Wilmer, TX  
September 23, 2005**



Source: Dallas County  
Sheriff's Dept.







1527



# Issue Areas

- Manufacturer maintenance information on wheel bearing components
- Fire resistance of motorcoach materials and designs
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's ineffective compliance review program



Source: James E. Knott



Source: James E. Knott





12.06.2005



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# Ongoing Investigations

# Victoria, Texas



# Victoria, Texas



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# Victoria, Texas



# Mexican Hat, Utah



# Mexican Hat, Utah



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# Sherman, Texas





# Dolan Springs, AZ



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