

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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ISSUED: November 5, 1980

Forwarded to:

Mr. William H. Dempsey
President & Chief Executive Officer
Association of American Railroads
American Railroads Building
1920 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

R-80-49

On February 12, 1980, two freight trains operated by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company collided head-on at Orleans Road, West Virginia. Extra 6474 East was on Track No. 2 traveling at 38 miles per hour as it passed the stop-and-stay signal at Orleans Road and entered a curve where Extra 4367 West was approaching at a speed of 32 mph. The fireman of Extra 4367 West was killed and the engineer and head brakeman were injured; the engineer, brakeman, and conductor of Extra 6474 East were injured. 1/

This accident occurred in a remote area of the railroad and required emergency rescue personnel about 3/4 hour to arrive at the scene. During this time, the engineer of Extra 6474 East was bleeding extensively from injuries sustained in the collision. None of the crewmembers, however, had any first aid training and were unable to give necessary aid to the engineer before emergency personnel arrived. When emergency personnel did arrive, the engineer was in critical condition and several of the other crewmembers were found wandering in a state of shock.

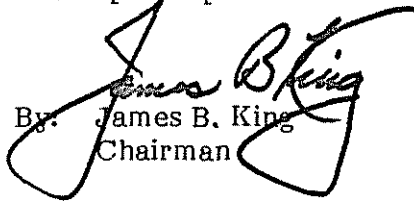
Since 1969, the Safety Board has found, through its investigations, a number of accidents involving passenger trains, freight trains, and hazardous materials, where crewmembers and passenger service personnel lacked emergency training, including first aid. It is difficult to evaluate the direct consequences of the lack of first aid training; however, the accident at Orleans Road exemplifies what can occur when employees lack basic first aid knowledge.

1/ For more detailed information on this accident read, "Railroad Accident Report--Head-on Collision of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Freight Trains Extra 6474 East and Extra 4367 West, Orleans Road, West Virginia, February 12, 1980, (NTSB-RAR-80-9).

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Association of American Railroads:

Recommend to Association of American Railroads member companies that they provide first aid training for their train crewmembers and passenger service personnel. (Class II, Priority Action) (R-80-49)

KING, Chairman, McADAMS, GOLDMAN, and BURSLEY, Members, concurred in this recommendation. DRIVER, Vice Chairman, did not participate.


By: James B. King
Chairman