

20. The actions of drivers involved in this series of collisions support the concern of the Safety Board that, at present, there is a need for improved criteria in driver education that will aid drivers in determining safe driving speeds under various conditions of limited visibility.
21. The response of other jurisdictions in providing emergency rescue services was excellent. The delay, in some cases, in arriving on-site can be attributed to the conditions that existed on the Turnpike.

#### PROBABLE CAUSE

The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of this series of multivehicle collisions was the penetration of vehicles into areas of severely reduced visibility due to fog and smoke, the latter occasioned by fires adjacent to the turnpike which had not been promptly extinguished. The delay in closing the affected roadways by the New Jersey State Police contributed to the number of accidents.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

On January 2, 1975, the National Transportation Safety Board made a recommendation relating to this accident to the New Jersey State Police. (See Appendix E.)

The Safety Board further recommends that:

1. The New Jersey State Police insure that all Northeast Weather Service reports are distributed, as received, to all Troop D stations and are thoroughly understood by all patrol personnel. (Recommendation H-75-3)
2. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority consider, in the implementation of the automatic traffic control and surveillance system, methods through which the manual closing of the Turnpike could be accomplished immediately and traffic movements deterred safely and without delay. (Recommendation H-75-4)

3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revise its proposed guidelines, "Thermal Processing and Land Disposal of Solid Wastes," to include measures to prevent abandoned dumps and landfills from becoming hazards to public health and safety. (Recommendation H-75-5)
4. The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection revise its sanitary code for solid waste disposal to require owners of properties that contain old dumps to close such sites properly. (Recommendation H-75-6)
5. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers cooperate to eliminate the possibility of fire and smoke from the old dumps within the Hackensack Meadowlands. (Recommendation H-75-7)
6. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration modify Federal Highway Traffic Safety Standard No. 4, "Driver Education," to include more definitive information relative to reduced-visibility driving. This recommendation was also made by the Safety Board in its special study, "Reduced-Visibility (Fog) Accidents on Limited-Access Highways," issued in 1972. (Recommendation H-75-8)