

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR RELEASE: 6:30 P.M., E.D.T., SEPTEMBER 15, 1976

(202) 426-8787

ISSUED: September 15, 1976

Forwarded to:

Honorable Arthur Peters
Mayor
Freemont, Nebraska 68026

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

P-76-56 through P-76-57

At 9:32 a.m. on January 10, 1976, gas which was leaking into the Pathfinder Hotel in Fremont, Nebraska, ignited. The gas was leaking from a 2-inch plastic pipe which had pulled out of its compression coupling; the gas seeped into the hotel because it had been capped above by frozen earth and a concrete road surface. The hotel exploded and fire ensued; the explosion and fire destroyed the hotel, damaged nearby buildings, and broke windows within a one-block radius. Thirty-nine persons were injured and 20 persons were killed. 1/

During its investigation of that accident, the National Transportation Safety Board discovered certain communications problems involving city personnel.

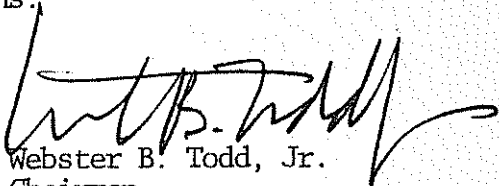
Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the City of Fremont:

Reemphasize to city personnel who are assigned to the emergency desk the importance of helping people who call in to report gas leaks, and require the personnel to furnish emergency gas company numbers to the public. (P-76-56) (Class II, Priority Followup)

1/ For more detailed information on this accident, read "Pipeline Accident Report -- Nebraska Natural Gas Company, Pathfinder Hotel Explosion and Fire, Fremont, Nebraska, January 10, 1976." NTSB-PAR-76-6.

Coordinate emergency activities with the gas company and determine what responses should be made to various types of gas emergencies. (P-76-57)
(Class II, Priority Followup)

TODD, Chairman, McADAMS, HOGUE, BURGESS, and HALEY, Members,
concurred in the above recommendations.


By: Webster B. Todd, Jr.
Chairman

THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THE DATE SHOWN ABOVE.
NO PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE THAT DATE.