

Log R-98

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: January 10, 1978

Forwarded to:

Mr. Paul H. Reistrup
President
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
955 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20024

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)
R-77-40

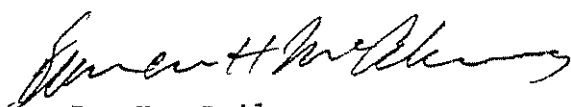

About 8:58 a.m., on December 15, 1976, Amtrak passenger train No. 15, operating on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, collided with an oil-laden tractor-cargo tank semitrailer near Marland, Oklahoma. The truckdriver and 2 train crewmembers were killed; 11 other persons on the train were injured. Property damage was estimated to be \$880,700. 1/

The investigation of this accident disclosed that the train, with SDP-40F type locomotive units, struck the cargo tank semitrailer at a speed of about 89.6 mph, igniting the trailer's cargo of crude oil. Both the outer and inner nose doors of the lead locomotive unit were torn loose from their hinges permitting immediate and massive entry of flaming oil into the cab. As a result, the enginemen were killed instantly.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the National Railroad Passenger Corporation:

Strengthen and improve its locomotive units' operating compartments so that they effectively resist impact forces and deter entry of flammable liquids into locomotive cabs. (Class II, Priority Action)(R-77-40)

BAILEY, Acting Chairman, McADAMS and KING, Members, concurred in the above recommendation. HOGUE, Member, did not participate.


By: Kay Bailey
 Acting Chairman

1/ For more detailed information about this accident read: "Railroad/ Highway Accident Report -- Collision of an Amtrak/Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Train and a Tractor-Cargo Tank Semitrailer, Marland, Oklahoma, December 15, 1976." (NTSB-RHR-77-3)