

NTSB

MOST WANTED LIST

Transportation Safety Improvements



Actions Needed by Federal Agencies

AVIATION

The Federal Aviation Administration should:

- **Improve Safety of Emergency Medical Services Flights**
 - Conduct all flights with medical personnel on board in accordance with commuter aircraft regulations.
 - Develop and implement flight risk evaluation programs.
 - Require formalized dispatch and flight-following procedures including up-to-date weather information.
 - Install terrain awareness and warning systems on aircraft.
- **Improve Runway Safety**
 - Give immediate warnings of probable collisions/incursions directly to cockpit flight crews.
 - Require specific air traffic control clearance for each runway crossing.
 - Install cockpit moving map displays or automatic systems to alert pilots of attempted takeoffs from taxiways or wrong runways.
 - Require landing distance assessment with an adequate safety margin.
- **Reduce Dangers to Aircraft Flying in Icing Conditions**
 - Use current research on freezing rain and large water droplets to revise the way aircraft are designed and approved for flight in icing conditions.
 - Apply revised icing requirements to currently certificated aircraft.
 - Require that airplanes with pneumatic deice boots activate boots as soon as the airplane enters icing conditions.
- **Improve Crew Resource Management**
 - Require commuter and on-demand air taxi flight crews to receive crew resource management training.
- **Require Image Recorders**
 - Install crash-protected image recorders in cockpits to give investigators more information to solve complex accidents.
- **Reduce Accidents and Incidents Caused by Human Fatigue**
 - Set working hour limits for flight crews, aviation mechanics and air traffic controllers based on fatigue research, circadian rhythms, and sleep and rest requirements.
 - Develop a fatigue awareness and countermeasures program for air traffic controllers.
(This recommendation also issued to National Air Traffic Controllers Assn.)

MARINE

The U.S. Coast Guard should:

- **Reduce Accidents and Incidents Caused by Human Fatigue**
 - Set working hour limits for mariners based on fatigue research, circadian rhythms, and sleep and rest requirements.

Actions Needed by Federal Agencies

HIGHWAY

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration should:

- **Restrict Use of Cellular Telephones**
 - Prohibit cellular telephone use by commercial drivers of school buses and motorcoaches, except in emergencies.
- **Require On-board Electronic Recorders**
 - Require all interstate commercial vehicle carriers to use electronic on-board recorders to collect data on both driver hours of operation and accident conditions.
- **Improve Safety of Motor Carrier Operations**
 - Prevent motor carriers from operating if they put vehicles with mechanical problems on the road or unqualified drivers behind the wheel.
- **Prevent Medically Unqualified Drivers from Operating Commercial Vehicles**
 - Establish a comprehensive medical oversight program for interstate commercial drivers.
 - Ensure that medical examiners are qualified.
 - Track all medical certificate applications.
 - Enhance oversight and enforcement of invalid certificates
 - Provide mechanisms for reporting medical conditions.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration should:

- **Prevent Collisions by Using Enhanced Vehicle Safety Technology**
 - Require adaptive cruise control and collision warning system standards for all new passenger and commercial vehicles.
- **Enhance Protection of Motorcoach Passengers**
 - Redesign motorcoach window emergency exits so they can be easily opened.
 - Issue standards for stronger bus roofs; require them in new motorcoaches.
 - Devise new standards to protect motorcoach passengers from being thrown out of their seats or ejected when a bus sustains an impact or rolls over.
- **Enhance Protection of School Bus Passengers**
 - Devise new standards to protect school bus passengers from being thrown out of their seats or ejected when a bus sustains an impact or rolls over.

PIPELINE

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration should:

- **Reduce Accidents and Incidents Caused by Human Fatigue**
 - Set working hour limits for pipeline controllers based on fatigue research, circadian rhythms, and sleep and rest requirements.

NTSB Action/Timeliness Classification for Federal Agencies

- **Unacceptable response**
- **Acceptable response, progressing slowly**
- **Acceptable response, progressing in a timely manner**

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Actions Needed by States

HIGHWAY

Improve Child Occupant Protection

- Enact State laws requiring booster seats for young children up to age 8.

Enact Primary Seat Belt Enforcement Laws

- Increase number of people who wear seat belts through stronger enforcement laws that don't restrict officers to observing another offense first.

Eliminate Distractions for Young Drivers

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

Eliminate Hard Core Drinking Driving

- Enact legislation to reduce crashes involving repeat offenders who drink large amounts of alcohol, including:
 - Frequent, statewide sobriety checkpoints.
 - More effective measures (sanctions/treatment) for first time arrests with high blood alcohol concentration and repeat offenders.
 - Zero blood alcohol requirement for those already convicted of driving while intoxicated.
 - Administrative license revocation for refusing to take or failing an evidential test for alcohol.
 - Vehicle sanctions for DWI offenders to separate drinking from driving.
 - Elimination of plea-bargaining DWI offenses and programs that divert offenders and purge offense records.
 - DWI offense records retention for at least 10 years to identify repeat offenders.
 - Special sanction court-based programs such as DWI courts for hard core DWI offenders.

MARINE

Enhance Recreational Boating Safety

- Require mandatory education of boat operators.
- Require use of life jackets by children.

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