

Attention Transportation Safety Colleagues!

You are receiving this e-newsletter because you have expressed an interest in transportation safety and advocacy happenings at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). We look forward to continuing our work with you to prevent accidents and save lives.



HIGHLIGHTING NTSB ADVOCACY IN ACTION

VOL 3 ISSUE 1

THE BIG STORIES

The NTSB Turns 50!



The NTSB began a year-long commemoration on April 1 of its 50th year of improving transportation safety and saving lives. In the five decades since the NTSB was created, it has investigated thousands of accidents and made more than 14,500 recommendations, of which more than 80 percent have been acted upon favorably.

The NTSB was created April 1, 1967, as part of the new Department of Transportation. In asking Congress to create a separate accident investigations agency, President Lyndon B. Johnson said the NTSB's sole function "will be the safety of our travelers." In 1974, Congress passed the Independent Safety Board Act and on April 1, 1975, the NTSB became an independent federal agency, fully separating it from the DOT. Now with a staff of 430, the NTSB investigates nearly 1,700 accidents, incidents, and crashes each year--covering all modes of transportation.

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Safety Compass Blog Posts You Might Have Missed...

[The New Pipeline Rule I Waited Half a Career to See](#)

[Don't Press the Envelope](#)

[Women of the NTSB](#)

[The Black Box](#)

[Tools of the Trade: Drones for the 21st Century Investigator](#)

[When Safety Should Take the Back Seat](#)

Continue to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, as well as our blog for stories throughout the year about our history. See our [timeline](#) of key events and activities, our video and read our [blog](#) by Acting Chairman Robert Sumwalt.

[The Best Defense is a Good Offense](#)

[What's Your Teen's Sleep Routine?](#)

[Fahrenheit 1,100: Lithium Batteries in Aviation](#)

Distracted Driving Roundtable: From Victim Stories to Advocacy in Action

The NTSB, in collaboration with [Stopdistractions.org](#), [DRIVE SMART Virginia](#), and the [National Safety Council](#), hosted its second roundtable on distracted driving on April 26 to facilitate discussion about this life-threatening problem and identify specific solutions for eliminating distracted driving on our highways. Survivor advocates of distracted-driving crashes joined law enforcement officers, insurance industry representatives, safety advocates, and lawmakers at the "Act to End Distracted Driving" roundtable. The event was designed to improve coordination among advocates, so that they can be more effective in working with the public, state and local governments, employers, and law enforcement. Acting Chairman Robert Sumwalt moderated an inspiring, participant-driven discussion and encouraged panelists to continue fighting for change. Check out Sumwalt's [video message](#) on the topic. For additional information on the event and to view the transcript, see the [event page](#) and read the [blog](#).



GENERAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Working with Industry to Improve Helicopter Safety

Helicopter safety was the focus of several outreach activities occurring in January, March, and April, as NTSB board members and investigators presented at various events on issues related to loss of control in flight, occupant protection and procedural compliance, and lessons learned from accident reports. Member Earl Weener kicked off the year in January, briefing Helicopter Association International-HAI on issues related to loss of control in general aviation and data-sharing best practices. In March, aviation investigators participated in the helicopter industry's largest gathering of pilots and operators, HAI Heli Expo, where they shared lessons learned from our investigations and discussed issues from the Most Wanted List. Then, in April, advocacy staff joined aviation investigators in a meeting with safety managers from HAI and the US Helicopter Safety Team to discuss strategies for improving information-sharing with industry. Investigator Chich Shin briefed on the findings from the recent Frisco, Colo., helicopter accident and recommended ways to avoid such accidents. Also in April, NTSB Safety Recommendations Chief Robert Dodd discussed NTSB's recommendations on helicopter safety and crashworthiness with members of the Association of Critical Care Transport. [Helicopter safety](#) was on our MWL in 2015.



Chich Shin at HAI

Safety on the Rails



Member Hart at SafeRail Congress

Board Member Christopher Hart participated in the 2017 SafeRail Congress and shared how technology, particularly [positive train control](#), and appropriate oversight can improve rail safety. Rail, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Office Investigator Paul Stancil shared investigative updates with the Tank Car Committee of the American Association of Railroads and discussed how, in the event of an accident, the new DOT-117 tank cars can mitigate damage and prevent dangerous hazardous releases.

Member Weener's Safety Message on Loss of Control in GA Flights

[Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation](#) is on our 2017-2018 Most Wanted List. Each year, nearly half of all general aviation crashes are caused by loss of control (unintended departure from controlled flight). Board Member Earl Weener took to the road to highlight this most significant general aviation safety concern, as well as several other MWL issues. In late February, Member Weener delivered a keynote to attendees of the Northwest Aviation Conference & Trade Show in Puyallup, Wash. In early April, Member Weener traveled to Lakeland, Fla., where he briefed attendees of Sun 'n Fun--the world's second largest general aviation industry event for general aviation enthusiasts. At the end of April, Member Weener also briefed the MWL and LOC issues at the annual Textron Customer Conference in Wichita, Kan., and at the annual meeting of the International Aviation and

Transportation Safety Bar Association in Seattle, Wash.

NTSB Urges Insurance Groups to Promote Recorders in Vehicles

Dave Pereira, an investigator from the Office of Highway Safety, shared his insights on the critical role recorders (data and video) and collision avoidance technologies play in improving highway safety at the 3rd Annual Telematics Insurance North America Conference in Chicago. More than 70 attendees of the conference--which included some of the world's largest automobile and commercial vehicle insurers--heard Pereira present an accident case study where recorders and vehicle safety technologies would have been beneficial, and urged insurance groups to consider their benefits and provide incentives for their adoption and use by drivers/fleets.

NTSB Co-Sponsors Fatigue Conference & Hosts Fatigue Twitter Chat

Nearly 300 attendees from around the world gathered at the 10th International Conference on Managing Fatigue, March 20-23, in San Diego, Calif. "Managing Fatigue to Improve Safety, Wellness, and Effectiveness" was the theme for the NTSB co-sponsored event. Board Member Christopher Hart delivered the conference's closing keynote remarks, and Highway Safety investigators Jana Price and Michael Fox discussed NTSB investigations where fatigue was present, and NTSB recommendations to address fatigue. That same week, the NTSB also hosted a teen drowsy driving Twitter chat to help promote the release of the agency's [Safety Alert](#) on this topic. Also check out our [blog](#) post on teens and drowsy driving published in conjunction with the event.



Mike Fox presents at fatigue conference

HIGHWAY SAFETY

Note: The vast majority of transportation-related deaths occur on our highways. More than 35,000 people died in 2015, up 7.2 percent from 2014, according to NHTSA data. This is the biggest increase since 1966. Preliminary estimates from the National Safety Council in April indicated motor vehicle deaths were 9 percent higher through the first six months of 2016 than in 2015, and 18 percent higher than two years ago at the six-month mark.

NTSB Advocates for .05 BAC Recommendation

NTSB has long advocated for lower blood alcohol concentration limits. Eliminating impairment in transportation has been on NTSB's Most Wanted List for nearly a decade. In 2013, the



Member Bella Dinh-Zarr testifies before Utah state reps

NTSB released a special investigation report entitled, [Reaching Zero: Actions to Eliminate Alcohol-Impaired Driving](#), which recommended that all 50 states lower their per se BAC levels to .05 or lower. In February 2017, Utah was considering a bill (HB 155) to lower the state's per se BAC level to .05. Board Member Bella Dinh-Zarr was invited to testify before committees in both their House and Senate regarding the NTSB's findings supporting our .05 safety recommendation from the *Reaching Zero* report.

Specifically, she spoke on the importance of separating drinking from driving and how "with a .05 BAC law, people who are drinking are just less likely to even get behind the wheel in the first place." She provided them with a fact sheet summarizing the data supporting the NTSB's safety recommendation. Member Dinh-Zarr submitted opinion pieces for local newspapers and addressed the media in several radio and television interviews. Both the Utah House and the Senate ultimately adopted the bill. On March 23, 2017, Utah Governor Gary Herbert signed [HB 155](#).

NTSB at 2017 Lifesavers Conference

Board Member Earl Weener, highway investigators, and safety advocacy staff participated in the 2017 Lifesavers Conference, held in Charlotte, N.C., to discuss NTSB priorities and initiatives. Attendance included more than 2,300 traffic safety professionals from across the nation. Safety Advocate Stephanie Shaw kicked off the conference by serving as the master of ceremonies in the opening plenary session, which featured a tribute to those lost to traffic crashes. National Resource Specialist Don Karol spoke on a panel about the "Towards Zero Deaths" initiative, and Senior Highway Safety Investigator Jennifer Morrison and Safety Advocate Leah Walton moderated panels about successful highway safety programs. NTSB investigators and staff manned a booth, which featured the agency's new drowsy driving Safety Alert for young drivers, fact sheets and brochures about its top 10 Most Wanted List safety issues, and motorcycle, truck and teen driver safety materials.



Stephanie Shaw kicks off event

NTSB Takes Truck Safety Message to Congress

On March 14, Board Member Christopher Hart shared NTSB's viewpoint on the state of truck safety as part of testimony before the Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security. "In 2015 alone, more than 4,000 people were killed in crashes involving large trucks, 4.1 percent more fatalities than in 2014, the highest since 2008," Hart said. "Our 2017-2018 Most Wanted List demonstrates that more needs to be done by industry, operators, and regulators in ensuring the safety of commercial truck operations."

Highway Director to Truck Execs: Make Our Most Wanted List Your Most Wanted List

Office of Highway Safety Director Rob Molloy discussed the NTSB's Most Wanted List with more than 75 safety managers, directors, and executives as part of a special briefing before the American Trucking Associations' Safety Management Council in late March. Molloy highlighted lessons learned from several truck crashes and urged trucking execs to develop policies that address recorders, impairment, fatigue, and occupant protection. Truck-related crash fatalities are on the rise, as are the general crash-fatality rates.

A Message to Auto Dealers: Support New Safety Technology



Member Hart with NADA execs presents to board of directors

Board Member Christopher Hart met with the board of directors at the National Automobile Dealers Association in January, urging the more than 100 dealer executives to encourage consumers to consider vehicles with collision avoidance technologies and to provide the required education/training on how to use those technologies. The NADA participated in NTSB's collision avoidance technology roundtable discussion in October 2016, and in May 2016 announced a pilot program with National Safety Council to train dealers and consumers on vehicle safety technologies.

Highway Investigator Presents Latest Crashes to Motorcoach Execs

Highway Safety Investigator Mike Laponte presented at the United Motorcoach Association's Annual Motorcoach Expo in St. Louis, Mo., in late February, providing findings from recent motorcoach crashes. The goal was to share key lessons learned that could improve safety. Occupant protection,

recorders, impairment, and fatigue were some issues discussed.

Communicators Networking Breakfast: Get Involved

The NTSB hosted its fourth Communicators Breakfast in April, a networking event designed to bring together key communications professionals from transportation organizations, agencies, and advocacy groups. The aim of this biennial breakfast is to network, share best practices, update our respective organizations' advocacy and media activities, and find ways to collaborate to promote transportation safety messaging. Ultimately, this group works together to ensure transportation is safe for everyone. If you are a transportation communicator and would like to join, email SafetyAdvocacy@ntsb.gov.

YOUTH AND TEEN OUTREACH

Safe Driving Starts with Good Driver Education

At the Dori Saves Lives Driver Education Conference, held in Boca Raton, Fla., in February, Safety Advocacy Chief Nicholas Worrell provided driving instructors tips for preparing beginner drivers to take on the dangers of driving. Worrell said, "One of the key elements needed to prepare young drivers is to develop safe driving habits, and you are the key to that."



Nick Worrell presenting

ASP Students Become Youth Safety Advocates

In April, the Safety Advocacy Division staff hosted 30 American Studies Program students and faculty at NTSB headquarters to talk about the NTSB and safe driving, and to empower them to become advocates for safety. Members of ASP helped NTSB develop a short [video](#) for Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April.

LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

- **Arizona:** Safety Advocacy Chief Nicholas Worrell testified on distracted driving legislation and presented on a panel during Arizona's Distracted Driving Summit on January 25.
- **Texas:** Acting Chairman Robert Sumwalt participated in a distracted driving advocacy awareness event held at the State Capitol in Austin on February 2 and met with numerous members of the Senate and Leadership in both chambers.
- **Maryland:** Safety Advocacy Chief Nicholas Worrell and Highway Safety Investigator Kenny Bragg addressed the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus in support of rear seat seat-belt legislation. Worrell also provided testimony in support of HB 1285 before the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee.
- **Delaware:** Acting Deputy Managing Director Sharon Bryson testified before the Delaware House Public Safety

and Homeland Security Committee in support of HB 14, a bill to require universal helmet use for motorcycle riders.

- **New York:** In response to a request from New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, the NTSB Offices of Aviation Safety and Research and Engineering prepared a report on the causes of fatal general aviation accidents in the Long Island, N.Y., region. Specifically, loss of control occurred in about one-third of flights in New York since 2012, their analysis found.



Sharon Bryson testifying

INVESTIGATION UPDATES & SAFETY ALERTS

- **Aviation Safety Alert:** [Stay Centered: Preventing Loss of Control During Landing \(SA-060\)](#). MWL safety issue: loss of control. Released January 2017.
- **Marine Accident Brief:** [Collision of Bulk Carrier Aris T with Tank Barge WTC 3019, Towing Vessel Pedernales, and Shoreside Structures](#). MWL issue: distraction. Adopted January 4, 2017.
- **Highway Safety Alert:** [Drowsy Driving Among Young Drivers: Get the right amount of sleep to stay alert behind the wheel \(SA-061\)](#). MWL safety issue: fatigue. Released February 2017.
- **Railroad Accident Brief:** [BNSF Railway Train Derailment and Subsequent Train Collision, Release of Hazardous Materials, and Fire](#). MWL issues: safe shipment of hazardous materials. Adopted February 7, 2017.
- **Aviation Aircraft Accident Report:** [Loss of Control at Takeoff Air Methods Corporation Airbus Helicopters AS350 B3e, N390LG](#). MWL safety issues: occupant protection, recorders. Adopted March 28, 2017.
- **Highway Accident Report:** [Motorcoach Collision with Crash Attenuator in Gore Area US Highway 101, San Jose, CA](#). MWL issues: occupant protection, collision avoidance technologies. Adopted March 28, 2017.
- **Highway Safety Recommendation Report:** [Shortcomings of Driver Qualification Processes for Baltimore City Public Schools and of the Disqualified Driver Database for All Maryland School Districts](#). MWL safety issue: medical fitness. Adopted March 29, 2017.

Note: The investigations/reports featured here are not all encompassing of those released during this newsletter timeframe; they merely represent the ones where MWL issues were prominently featured. See our website for [all reports](#) and [Safety Alerts](#).

MOST WANTED LIST - PROGRESS REPORT (Hits and Misses)

Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents

- On March 20, the NTSB issued a new [safety alert](#) focused on preventing young driver drowsy driving crashes. The alert was inspired by a March 2016 crash in [Robstown, Texas](#), investigated by the NTSB, where three teens were killed in a drowsy-driving crash.

Improve Rail Transit Safety Oversight

- The Federal Transit Administration notified the transit systems in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia that it will withhold 5 percent of Fiscal Year 2017 transit formula

funds until a new State Safety Oversight Program is certified for the rail operations of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The funds will be withheld until the jurisdictions pass identical legislation and meet related requirements for FTA to certify a new SSOP for WMATA Metrorail.

Increase Implementation of Collision Avoidance Technologies

- The Federal Railroad Administration released [a progress report](#), as of Fiscal Year 2016/Q4, on the status of railroad implementation of positive train control systems.

Strengthen Occupant Protection

- Maryland HB 1285, which would have expanded Maryland's primary seat belt law to all seating positions, did not advance out of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. The NTSB had testified in favor of this bill.

Eliminate Distractions

- On April 27, the Arizona governor signed the [state's first ban](#) on texting while driving. The ban is limited to beginning drivers for the first six months they have a driver's license.
- As a result of the "Act to End Distracted Driving" roundtable, held April 26 at NTSB headquarters, three organizations--[stopdistraction.org](#), [National Safety Council](#), and [DriveSmart Virginia](#)--committed to providing families and citizens wishing to advocate against distracted driving additional advocacy and outreach resources, tools, and best practices on their respective websites.

Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation

Through its #FlySafe social media campaign, the Federal Aviation Administration each month provides pilots with loss of control solutions - some of which have already been proven to be reducing risk. The latest topic covered the dangers of mountain flying. See its [website](#) for the latest LOC tips.

Ensure the Safe Shipment of Hazardous Materials

- On April 11, the Safety and Health Learning Alliance convened a panel of experts from the Department of Defense, NASA, and the NTSB to discuss the safety challenges of storing, transporting, and maintenance of lithium-ion batteries. The group identified safety mitigation strategies, which, if implemented, could significantly improve the safety of transporting these ubiquitous, but potentially hazardous, items.
- Following a growing number of requests regarding the changes to the International Air Transport Association Dangerous Goods Regulations for lithium batteries in 2017, IATA prepared a [Guidance Document](#) that addresses the use and carriage of lithium battery-powered devices such as cargo tracking devices and temperature data loggers.

End Alcohol and Other Drug Impairment in Transportation

- Opportunities in two states to create laws establishing a .05 blood alcohol concentration limit were not voted on and died in committees--Washington's HB 1874 and Hawaii's SB 18. The NTSB had sent letters of support.

Require Medical Fitness

- In [three recommendations](#) released April 11, the NTSB urged an audit of Baltimore City Public Schools' Transportation Department and clarifications in school bus driver qualification processes. The recommendations are part of the NTSB's ongoing investigation into the November 1, 2016, collision between a school bus and a transit bus in Baltimore. The full safety recommendation report, including information on the accident sequence, is available [online](#).

Expand Recorder Use to Enhance Safety

- In February, two railroads committed to installing cameras on trains. Metro-North Commuter Railroad will spend nearly \$8 million on cameras for all its M7 cars (334 rail cars). The inward- and outward-facing cameras, which have already been tested, will be trained on each train engineer's control area, as well as track, wayside (the area along the tracks), and passenger areas. In Canada, Canadian Pacific launched an [awareness campaign](#) that highlights the safety benefits of the proactive use of inward-facing cameras, and urged the Canadian Minister of Transport to pass new legislation that would maximize these benefits. The Transportation Safety Board (TSB), the NTSB's counterpart in Canada, [has been calling on Transport Canada](#) to mandate this technology since 2012.

DID YOU KNOW? ... You can get all NTSB official Board Member speeches and testimonies on the [NTSB website](#).

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE...(LOOK FOR NTSB HERE!)

Global Youth Traffic Safety Month	May	FCCLA National Leadership Conference	July 2-6
Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month	May	NTSB-NSC Commercial Vehicle Collision Avoidance Tech Roundtable	July 24
National Youth Traffic Safety Month	May	Safe Kids Worldwide Childhood Injury Prevention Convention	July 26-29
National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization (NHTSA)	May 22-June 4	National Conference of State Legislatures Summit	Aug 6-9

SADD National Conference on Youth Health & Safety

June 25-28

Back to School Awareness Activities

TBD



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