National Transportation Safety Board

Event Data Recorders

Jane Foster

Overview

- Recommendations history
- Heavy vehicle event data recorders
- Engine control modules (ECMs)

Recommendations History

- Other modes of transportation require crash event recording
- 1999 and 2010 bus recommendations concerning event data recorders
- Status remains “Open—Unacceptable Response”

Heavy Vehicle Event Data Recorders

- Dedicated, crash-protected recorders on heavy vehicles
- Similar to recorders in other modes of commercial transportation

Engine Control Module (ECM)

- Primary functions
  - Fuel delivery, engine performance
  - Communicate with other electronic systems
  - Diagnostic fault codes
- Secondary functions
  - Data recording, but not dedicated event data recorder
  - No expectation of data survivability

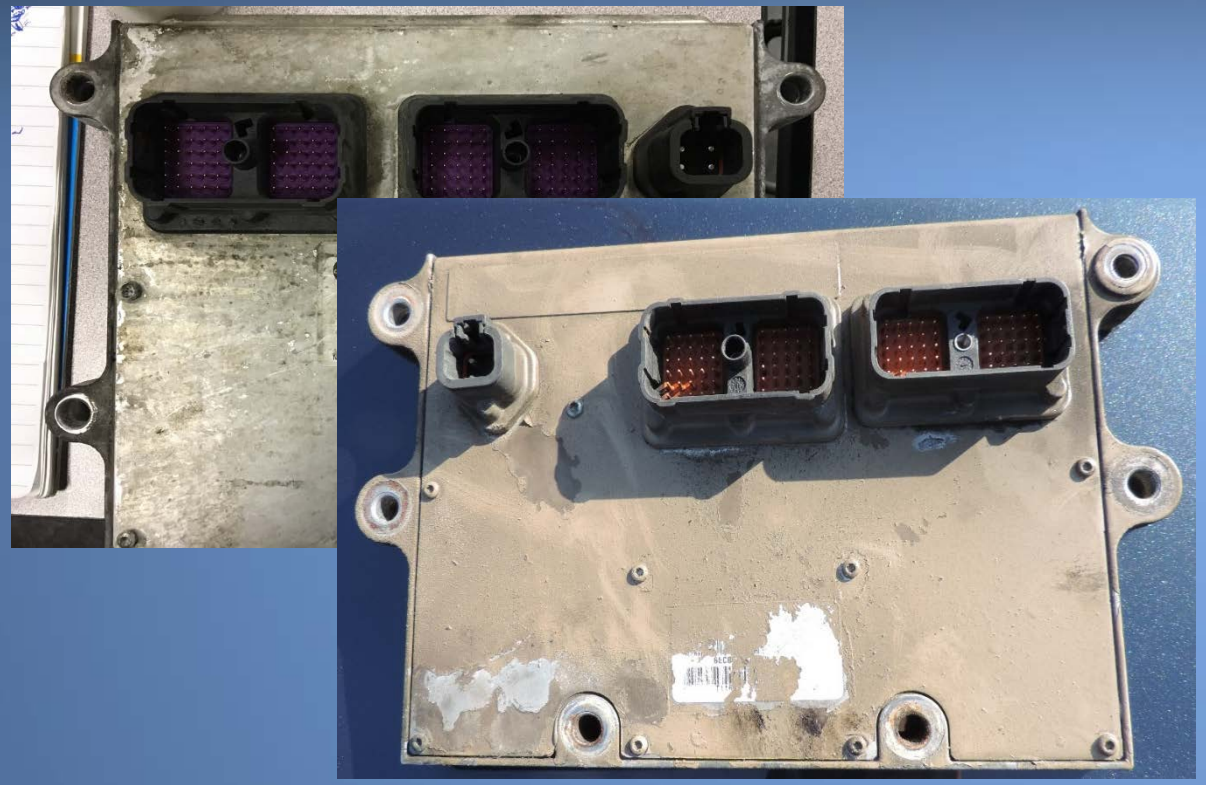
Crash ECMs

Chattanooga

2008 Thomas Built school bus

Cummins ECM

Crash ECMs

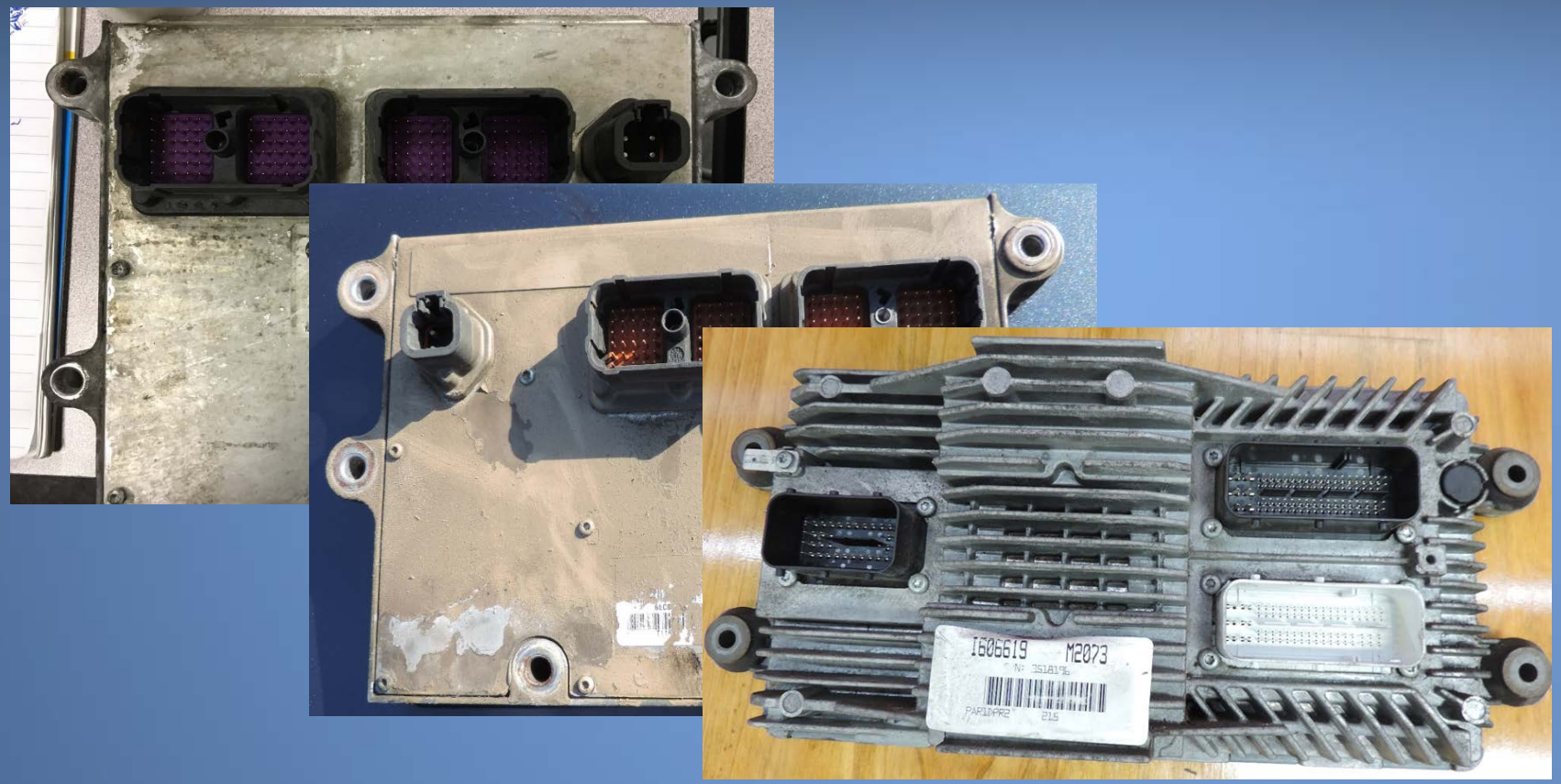


Baltimore

2005 New Flyer transit bus

Cummins ECM

Crash ECMs



Baltimore
2015 IC school bus
IC ECM

No event data recording function

Summary

- NTSB has long advocated for event data recorders
- Without dedicated event data recorders, critical data remain unavailable
- Data would improve commercial vehicle safety

National Transportation Safety Board