



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Highway Safety*

# **Motor Carrier**

Jim LeBerte

# Arrow Stage Lines

- Busco, Inc., doing business as Arrow Stage Lines
- Family-owned business in operation since 1928
- Headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska
- Fleet of 179 motorcoaches and 337 drivers

# Arrow Safety Indicators

- Low accident rate (0.37); compared to deficient of 1.50 or greater
- OOS for vehicles was 4 %, national average is 23 %
- OOS for drivers was 2.5 %, national average is 7 %
- “Satisfactory” ratings in 1991, 1996, 2000, and 2006
- February 2008 postaccident compliance review resulted in “conditional” rating

# Trip Planning

- Accident trip was 556 miles
- Hours-of-service regulations generally allow 10 hours of driving
- Adverse conditions allowing 12 hours of driving time did not apply
- Weather and road closure discussed in meeting before start of accident trip and trip began with snow chains

# Contingency Planning

## Options:

- Identify alternate drivers and equipment
- Stage relief drivers along the route
- Re-routing options
- Identify overnight accommodations

Arrow could not reasonably expect drivers to handle contingency plan arrangements

# Electronic On-Board Recorders

- H-07-41 recommends EOBRs for interstate commercial vehicles
- EOBRs for *all* commercial operators, not just problem carriers
- Final rule expected January 2009
- Final rule delayed for further FMCSA review



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