



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

*Office of Railroad, Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety*

BLET Advanced Local Chairman's
Training
Silver Spring, Maryland

Deborah A. P. Hersman

November 16, 2007

NTSB

- Independent Federal Agency
- 5-Member Board
 - President appointed, Senate confirmed
- 400 Staff
- Investigates accidents in all modes of transportation
- Determines probable cause
- Issues/Implements recommendations

Safety Recommendations

Issued Since 1967

TOTAL = 12,536

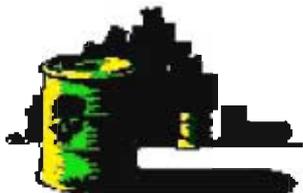
Pipeline 1225 (9.8%)



Marine 2307
(18.4%)



Intermodal 229 (1.8%)

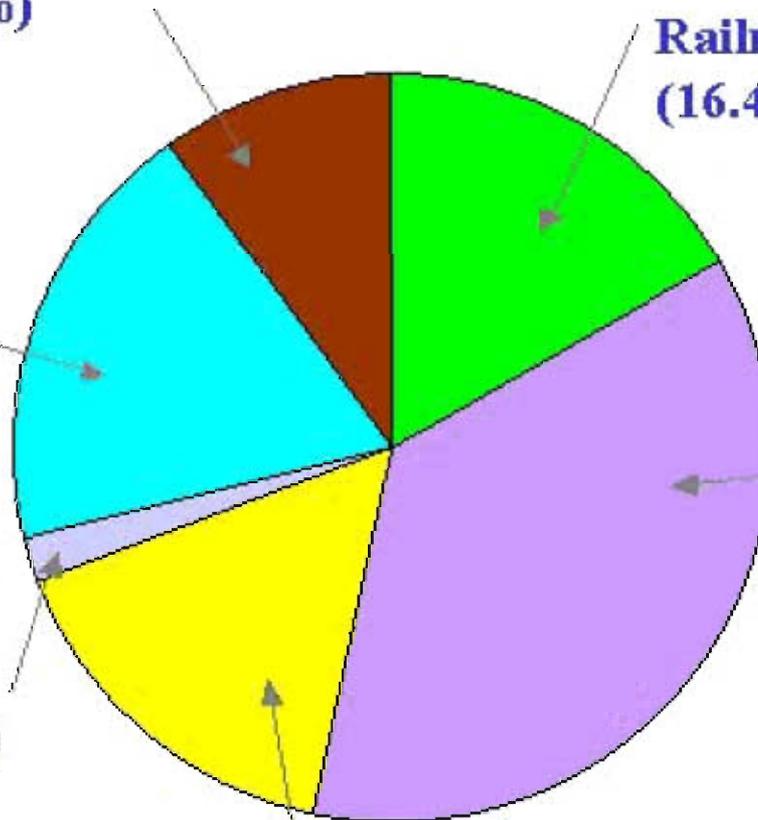
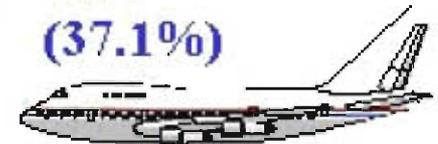


Highway 2069 (16.5%)

Railroad 2053
(16.4%)



Aviation
4653
(37.1%)



November 2006

Selection of Rail Accidents

- We launch on about 10 accidents each year
- 13 railroad investigators ~ 2 teams
 - Investigator-In-Charge
 - Signals
 - Operations
 - Track
 - Human Performance
 - Mechanical
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Event Recorders

Selection of Rail Accidents

Safety Issues

- Passenger Trains
- Fatalities (Public/Employee)
- Hazardous Material Releases
- Trends
 - Track
 - Equipment
 - Operation

Topics for Discussion

- Completed investigations
- New investigations
- Federal Most Wanted List



Gunter, Texas

May 19,
2004

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Texarkana, Arkansas

October 15, 2005







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Anding, Mississippi

Canadian National Head-on Collision

July 10, 2005

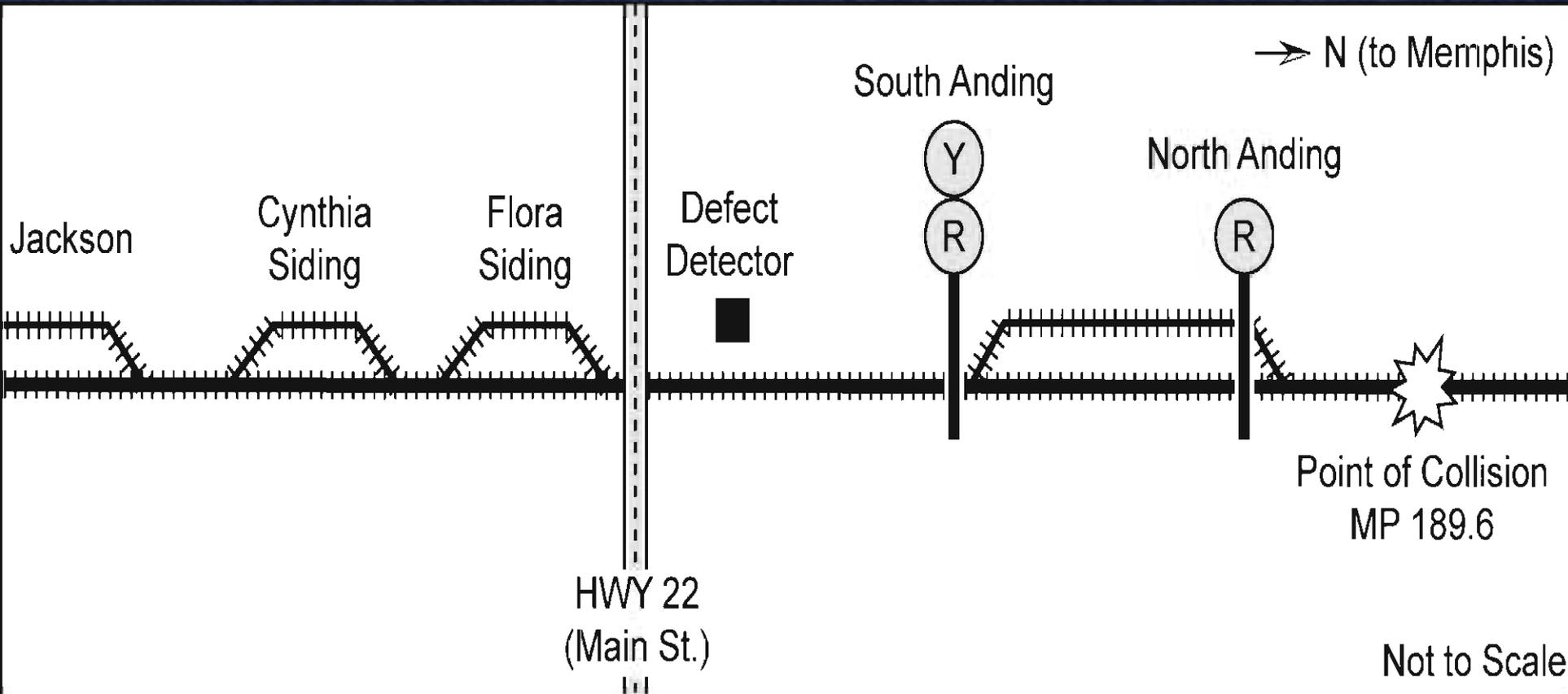


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Anding, Mississippi







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Safety Issues

- PTC
- Alerters
- Accurate consists
- Emergency response planning
- Voice recorders

Home Valley, Washington

April 3, 2005



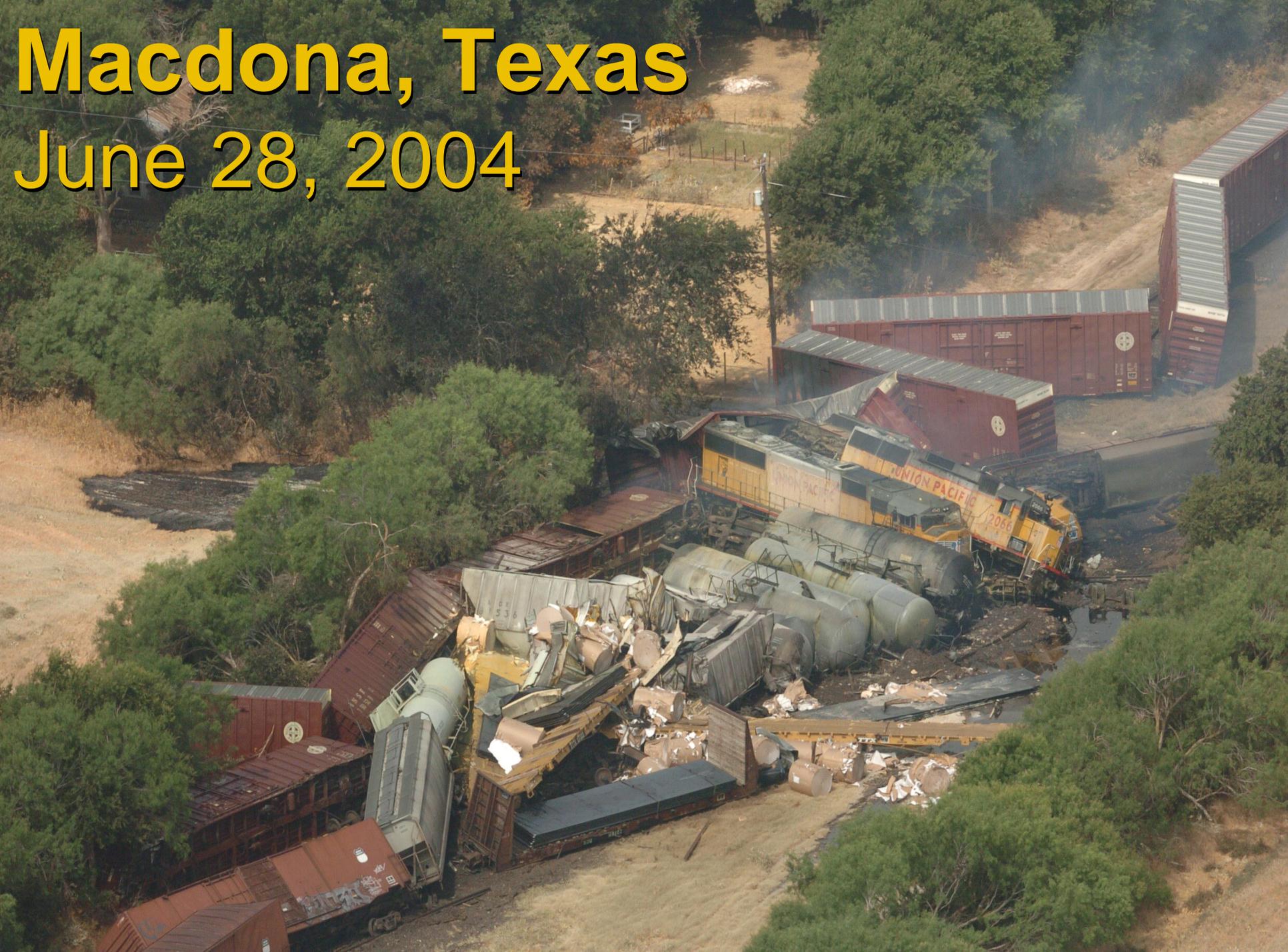
Home Valley, Washington



Appendix C - Photo of area with concrete tie abrasion

Macdona, Texas

June 28, 2004



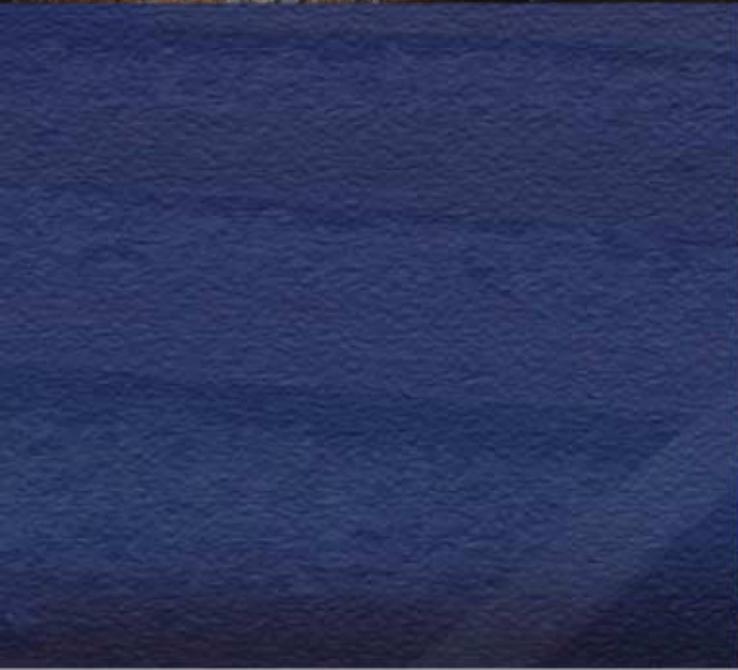


Graniteville, South Carolina

January 6, 2005







Baxter, California

November 9, 2006



AP PHOTO

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New Brighton, Pennsylvania

October 21, 2006



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Rail Most Wanted

Positive Train Control Systems

**Action Needed by the
Federal Railroad Administration**

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Rail Most Wanted

Human Fatigue

Action Needed by the Federal Railroad Administration



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