



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: November 2, 2016

In reply refer to: H-16-13 and -14

Mr. John Schroer
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Transportation
James K. Polk Building, Suite 700
500 Deaderick St.
Nashville, TN 37243-0349

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Tennessee Department of Transportation to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On June 25, 2015, about 7:10 p.m., a 2007 Peterbilt truck-tractor in combination with a 2005 Great Dane semitrailer, operated by Cool Runnings Express, Inc., was traveling northbound on Interstate 75, near Chattanooga, Tennessee, when it struck the rear of a 2010 Toyota Prius at an estimated speed of 78–82 mph.¹ Traffic had slowed because of road construction and a work zone lane closure at milepost 12. The truck-tractor continued forward and collided with seven additional vehicles, forcing them into subsequent collisions. Of the 18 vehicle occupants, six died and four were injured. A postcrash fire consumed one vehicle. The truck driver was returning to the carrier terminal in London, Kentucky, having begun his trip about 5:16 a.m. in Haines City, Florida. Additional information about this crash and the resulting recommendations may be found at our website, www.nts.gov, under report number NTSB/HAR-16/01.

¹ See *Multivehicle Work Zone Crash on Interstate 75, Chattanooga, Tennessee, June 25, 2015*, Highway Accident Report NTSB/HAR-16/01 (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2016).

As a result of this investigation, we issued seven new recommendations, including four to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, one to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Idaho Transportation Department, and the following recommendations to the Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Tennessee Department of Transportation:

H-16-13

Take steps to ensure that law enforcement personnel attend and participate in preconstruction conferences on work zone projects on the interstate system.

H-16-14

Establish requirements for your personnel to complete recurring training on law enforcement presence and control functions in highway work zones that follow such current guidance as the American Traffic Safety Services Association–Federal Highway Administration *Safety Practices for Law Enforcement Personnel Operating in Highway Work Zones: A Pocket Guide*.

As a result of this investigation, we also reiterated one previously issued recommendation to the Federal Highway Administration, and reiterated and reclassified one recommendation to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

These safety recommendations are derived from the NTSB's investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HART, Vice Chairman DINH-ZARR, and Members SUMWALT and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Chairman



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

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Colonel Tracy Trott
Tennessee Highway Patrol
Administrative Office
1150 Foster Ave.
Nashville, TN 37243

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On June 25, 2015, about 7:10 p.m., a 2007 Peterbilt truck-tractor in combination with a 2005 Great Dane semitrailer, operated by Cool Runnings Express, Inc., was traveling northbound on Interstate 75, near Chattanooga, Tennessee, when it struck the rear of a 2010 Toyota Prius at an estimated speed of 78–82 mph.² Traffic had slowed because of road construction and a work zone lane closure at milepost 12. The truck-tractor continued forward and collided with seven additional vehicles, forcing them into subsequent collisions. Of the 18 vehicle occupants, six died and four were injured. A postcrash fire consumed one vehicle. The truck driver was returning to the carrier terminal in London, Kentucky, having begun his trip about 5:16 a.m. in Haines City, Florida. Additional information about this crash and the resulting recommendations may be found at our website, www.nts.gov, under report number NTSB/HAR-16/01.

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