



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: August 26, 2014

In reply refer to: R-14-26

Mr. Mark Light
CEO and Executive Director
International Association of Fire Chiefs
4025 Fair Ridge Dr.
Fairfax, VA 22033

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, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinates 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 International Association of Fire Chiefs to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On July 29, 2014, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the November 30, 2012, accident, in which a Consolidated Rail Corporation train containing hazardous materials derailed, spilling vinyl chloride into Mantua Creek in Paulsboro, New Jersey.¹ Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendation may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number RAR-14/01.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB reiterated Safety Recommendations R-12-03, R-07-02 and R-07-04 and issued 20 new recommendations, including one to the Consolidated Rail Corporation, one to the US Department of Transportation, three to the Federal Railroad Administration, four to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, two to the Association of American Railroads, to two the American Short Line and Regional Railroad

¹ *Conrail Freight Train Derailment with Vinyl Chloride Release, Paulsboro, New Jersey, November 30, 2012, Railroad Accident Report NTSB/RAR-14/01* (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2014).

Association, one to the National Volunteer Fire Council, two to the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management, one to the New Jersey Bureau of Fire Department Services, one to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, one to the New Jersey Department of Health and the following recommendation to the International Association of Fire Chiefs:

R-14-26

Notify your membership about the circumstances of this accident and develop a plan to incorporate into ongoing training curricula lessons learned concerning the need to promptly use adequate data collection and analysis tools and to develop and implement community protective measures for mitigating the threats of hazardous materials releases.

This safety recommendation is derived from the NTSB's investigation and is consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Acting Chairman HART and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is 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 it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov. If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Acting Chairman