



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: August 26, 2014

In reply refer to: R-14-30

Mr. Richard E. Constable, III
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Division of Fire Safety
Bureau of Fire Department Services
101 S. Broad St.
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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 New Jersey Bureau of Fire Department Services 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.

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).

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, two to the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, one to the International Association of Fire Chiefs, one to the National Volunteer Fire Council, two to the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management, one to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce, one to the New Jersey Department of Health, and the following one recommendation to the New Jersey Bureau of Fire Department Services.

R-14-30

Update the firefighter training curricula relating to hazardous materials operations to incorporate lessons learned from this National Transportation Safety Board accident investigation concerning the emergency response to the Conrail Freight Train Derailment with Vinyl Chloride Release in Paulsboro, New Jersey, on November 30, 2012.

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