



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** July 8, 2015

**In reply refer to:** R-15-27

Mr. Gregory Fox  
Executive Vice President - Operations  
BNSF Railway Company  
2600 Lou Menk Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76131

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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. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue 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 BNSF Railway to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On June 25, 2015, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted the accident report resulting from a September 25, 2013, accident in which BNSF Railway (BNSF) eastbound train BLACWSP223A (7891 East) struck the rear end of standing BNSF train SLHTLPC223A (6746 East) on main track no. 2 near Amarillo, Texas. Several cars from 7891 East derailed and fell across the adjacent track, main track no. 1. Approaching BNSF westbound train ZWSPSBD724L (6943 West) struck the derailed cars.<sup>1</sup> Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number RAR-15/02.

As a result of this investigation, we issued two new recommendations, including one to the Federal Railroad Administration and the following recommendation to the BNSF Railway:

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<sup>1</sup> National Transportation Safety Board, *Collision Involving Three BNSF Railway Freight Trains near Amarillo, Texas, September 25, 2013*. RAR-15/02 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2015).

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Discontinue the use of a white light as a marking device on the rear of a train.

Chairman HART, Vice Chairman Dinh-Zarr, and Members SUMWALT 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](mailto: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,  
Chairman