



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: December 14, 2015

In reply refer to: H-15-38 and -39

Mr. T. F. Scott Darling III
Acting Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Washington, DC 20590

On November 17, 2015, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its report concerning the September 26, 2014, crash in which a Peterbilt truck-tractor in combination with a Great Dane semitrailer, operated by Quickway Transportation Inc., collided with a Champion Defender 32-passenger medium-size bus on Interstate 35, near Davis, Oklahoma.¹ The truck-tractor departed the roadway, traveled more than 1,100 feet across the median without evidence of braking or steering, entered the southbound lanes of traffic, and collided with the bus—which was transporting 15 members of the North Central Texas College softball team. As a result of the crash, four passengers on the bus were fully or partially ejected and died, and both drivers and the remaining passengers were injured. Additional information about this crash and the resulting recommendations may be found at our website, www.nts.gov, under report number NTSB/HAR-15/03.

As a result of this investigation, we issued seven new recommendations, including one to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); one to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); one to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; one to five motor carrier industry stakeholders; one to the American Association of Community Colleges; and the following two recommendations to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration:

H-15-38

Determine the prevalence of commercial motor vehicle driver use of impairing substances, particularly synthetic cannabinoids, and develop a plan to reduce the use of such substances.

¹ See *Truck-Tractor Semitrailer Median Crossover Collision With Medium-Size Bus on Interstate 35, Davis, Oklahoma., September 26, 2014*, Highway Accident Report NTSB/HAR-15/03 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2015).

H-15-39

Work with motor carrier industry stakeholders to develop a plan to aid motor carriers in addressing commercial motor vehicle driver use of impairing substances, particularly those not covered under current drug-testing regulations—such as by promoting best practices by carriers, expanding impairment detection training and authority, and developing performance-based methods of evaluation.

As a result of this investigation, we also reiterated five previously issued recommendations to NHTSA and two previously issued recommendations each to the FHWA and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. In addition, we superseded one previously issued recommendation to the governors and legislatures of the 50 states, the US Territories, and the District of Columbia.

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