



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: October 16, 2015

In reply refer to: M-15-8 and -9

Admiral Paul F. Zukunft
Commandant
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Washington, DC 20590

On September 22, 2015, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its report concerning the August 13, 2014, allision of the *Cory Michael* tow with the Florida Avenue Bridge.¹ 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, www.nts.gov, under report number MAR-15/02.

As a result of this investigation, we issued five new recommendations, including one to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, one to the Port of New Orleans, one to Boh Bros. Construction Co., and the following two recommendations to the US Coast Guard:

M-15-8

Revise your existing guidance to define inspection requirements clearly, including the frequency of inspection, for each bridge in your jurisdiction.

M-15-9

Evaluate the activities and performance of each branch office in the bridge program to identify areas that need improvement; then take the actions necessary to ensure the effectiveness of existing policy, procedures, and regulations related to drawbridge operations and the overall safety of navigation.

¹ *Allision of Crane Barge, Pushed by Towing Vessel Cory Michael, with the Florida Avenue Bridge, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 13, 2014.* NTSB/MAR-15/02 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2015).

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. 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