



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: November 3, 2015

In reply refer to: R-15-33 and -34

Mr. Lance M. Fritz
President and Chief Executive Officer
Union Pacific Railroad
1400 Douglas St.
Omaha, NE 68179-1020

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 Union Pacific Railroad to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On October 28, 2015, we adopted our report concerning the August 7, 2014, accident, in which Union Pacific Railroad local train LUM41-06 traveled into a warehouse, ran through the end-of-track bumping post, and then collided with the inside wall while switching cars.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, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number RAB-15/07.

¹ National Transportation Safety Board, *Locomotive Engineer Has Seizure While Operating Train, Arden, Nevada, August 7, 2014*, RAB-15/07. (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2015).

As a result of this investigation, we reiterated Safety Recommendation R-13-21 and issued five new recommendations, including three to the Federal Railroad Administration and the following two recommendations to Union Pacific Railroad:

R-15-33

Identify and review the records of all employees in safety-sensitive positions who have any history of seizures, and ensure that the current Union Pacific Railroad standard of fitness for duty is met by each employee.

R-15-34

Assess the safety of all medications being used by employees in safety-sensitive positions each time an employee undergoes a medical evaluation.

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