



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** June 9, 2016

**In reply refer to:** R-16-39 and -40

Mr. Richard Ross Jr.  
Commissioner  
Philadelphia Police Department  
750 Race St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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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 the Philadelphia Police Department to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On May 17, 2016, we adopted our report concerning the May 12, 2015, accident in which Amtrak passenger train 188 derailed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.<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-16/02.

As a result of this investigation, we reiterated Safety Recommendation R-14-74 to the Federal Railroad Administration; reclassified Safety Recommendations R-15-28, R-15-29, and R-15-30 to Amtrak; closed Safety Recommendation R-13-23 to the Federal Railroad Administration; and issued 11 new safety recommendations, including five to the Federal Railroad Administration; one to Amtrak; one to the mayor of Philadelphia; one to the National Association of State EMS Officials, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National

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<sup>1</sup> National Transportation Safety Board, *Derailment of Amtrak Passenger Train 188, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 12, 2015*, RAR-16/02 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2016).

Emergency Management Association, the National Association of EMS Physicians, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs; one to the Association of American Railroads and the American Public Transportation Association; and the following two safety recommendations to the Philadelphia Fire Department, Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management, and the Philadelphia Police Department:

R-16-39

Collaborate and develop a plan that effectively integrates rapid police transport of patients into the emergency medical response plans for large mass casualty incidents, including a means of coordinating hospital destinations regardless of the method of transport.

R-16-40

Once the plan specified in Safety Recommendation R-16-39 is developed, practice the plan periodically, including at least one full-scale drill every 3 years, to ensure that it functions as intended.

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](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



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** June 9, 2016

**In reply refer to:** R-16-39 and -40

Ms. Samantha Phillips  
Director of Emergency Management  
Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management  
240 Spring Garden St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

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On May 17, 2016, we adopted our report concerning the May 12, 2015, accident in which Amtrak passenger train 188 derailed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.<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-16/02.

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[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,  
Chairman