

The following Safety Recommendations were issued as a result of NTSB Railroad Accident Report “BNSF Railway Roadway Worker Fatalities Edgemont, South Dakota, January 17, 2017.” Report Number RAR-18-01. Adopted on August 27, 2018. Published on September 5, 2018.

Safety Recommendation Number	Safety Recommendation Recipient	Safety Recommendation Text
R-18-016	Federal Railroad Administration	Review, and modify if necessary, your current inspection guidance regarding watchman/lookout equipment to verify that it requires railroads to provide the necessary equipment for a watchman/lookout to notify a roadway work group of approaching trains and that this accurately reflects the definition contained in Title 49 <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> 214.7.
R-18-017	Federal Railroad Administration	Review railroads’ on-track safety programs to determine if the necessary equipment is required and provided for a watchman/lookout to notify roadway work groups of approaching trains. If deficiencies are discovered, use enforcement options to encourage compliance.
R-18-018	Federal Railroad Administration	Revise your guidance for inspectors regarding required watchman/lookout equipment and procedures, train all of your inspectors on the revised guidance, and audit subsequent inspections to verify adherence to the specifications outlined in Title 49 <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> 214.
R-18-019	Federal Railroad Administration	Modify the National Inspection Plan to require periodic unannounced inspections for

		roadway worker protection regulation compliance.
R-18-020	BNSF Railway	Include evaluations on the visual detection of trains as a regular component of roadway work group employees' required operational testing.
R-18-021	BNSF Railway	Revise your on-track safety program to include the proper equipment for watchmen/lookouts to provide train approach warning for roadway work groups.
R-18-022	BNSF Railway	Provide instruction for on-track safety procedures and conduct operational testing for roadway worker-in-charge personnel on their knowledge of roadway work group job briefing procedures to ensure that they know to include information on how on-track safety is to be provided when a roadway worker will be fouling a track.

September 5, 2018

The Honorable Ronald Batory
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

On August 27, 2018, the NTSB adopted its accident report, *BNSF Railway Roadway Worker Fatalities, Edgemont, South Dakota, January 17, 2017*, RAR-18/01. The details of this accident brief and the resulting safety recommendations may be found in the accident report, which can also be accessed at <http://www.nts.gov>.

Among the safety recommendations are four issued to the Federal Railroad Administration, which can be found on **page 19** of the report.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate a response within 90 days, detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement these recommendations. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response to correspondence@nts.gov. If it exceeds 20 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.



Executive Secretariat

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National Transportation Safety Board

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September 5, 2018

Mr. Carl Ice
Chief Executive Officer
BNSF Railway

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.

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