



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Highway Safety*

# Vehicle Factors

# Vehicle Issues

- Postfire vehicle examination
- Lack of systematic vehicle maintenance/inspections
- No Federal requirement for wheel bearing inspections
- Wheel bearing maintenance information

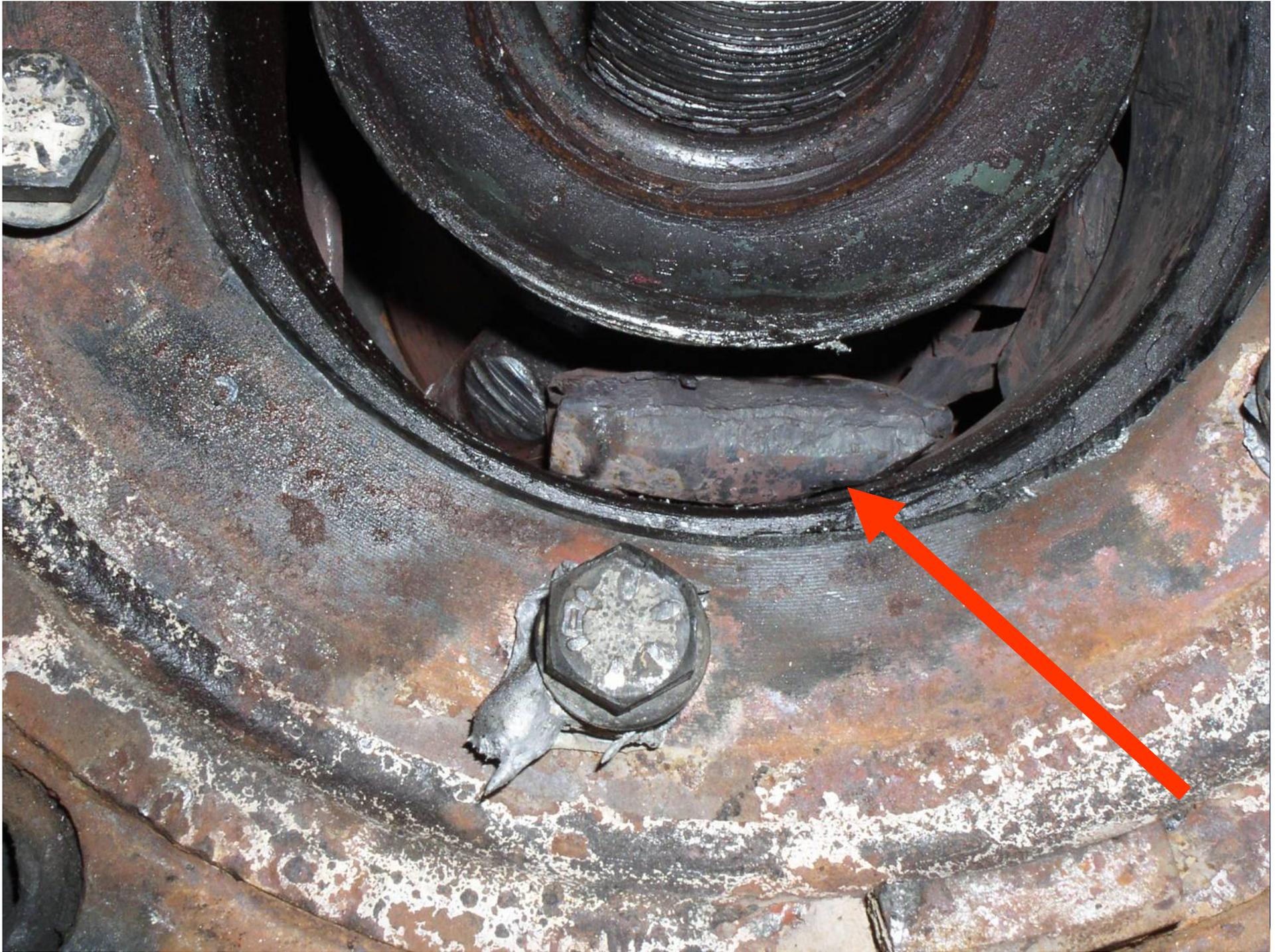




# Prefire Events

- At 5:50 a.m., motorist
  - Sees sparks
  - Sees wheel hub glowing orange–red
  - Stops motorcoach
  - Tells motorcoach driver of right-rear wheel glowing orange–red
- Motorcoach driver pulls over to interstate shoulder







# Accident Motorcoach Bearings



Damaged bearing rollers



Undamaged wheel bearing

# Sources of Friction and Heat

- Lack of wheel bearing lubrication caused roller deformation
- Deformed rollers shifted brake components, causing friction and heat
- Temperatures increased within wheel well and ignited rubber tire

# Accident Vehicle Maintenance

- No evidence of systematic scheduled maintenance
- Driver did not conduct pretrip inspections or check hub oil levels
- Vehicle manufacturer specifies checking hub oil levels daily
- Global's owner reported not paying drivers to conduct pretrip/posttrip vehicle inspections as required

# Federal Vehicle Inspections

- Accident motorcoach manufacturer specified daily hub oil inspections
- No Federal requirements for inspection

# MCI Maintenance Manual

- Lack of specific warning on consequences of inadequate wheel bearing lubrication
- Need to warn vehicle owners of this problem

# Motorcoach Associations

- Advise members of dangers and consequences of wheel bearing failure
- Advise manufacturers to review maintenance manuals accordingly
- Advise manufacturers to disseminate customer advisory bulletins



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