

NTSB MOST WANTED LIST 2014

The NTSB's Most Wanted List highlights safety issues identified from the NTSB's accident investigations to increase awareness about the issues and recommend safety solutions.



The National Transportation Safety Board 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. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinates the resources of the Federal Government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members impacted by major transportation disasters.

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**Critical changes
needed to reduce
transportation accidents
and save lives**

National Transportation Safety Board

ADDRESS UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

Over the last 10 years, the NTSB has investigated numerous helicopter accidents and issued over 100 safety recommendations on helicopter-specific issues. Increased awareness and action by helicopter manufacturers, helicopter operators, and training and regulatory agencies is needed.

ADVANCE PASSENGER VESSEL SAFETY

For over three decades, NTSB accident investigations revealed in numerous cases that the cause of an accident was not the failure of the vessel but the lack of good safety practices that led to the loss of life and injuries. Safety and risk management is a key factor in passenger vessel operations.

ELIMINATE DISTRACTION IN TRANSPORTATION

Accident investigations and safety studies conducted by the NTSB in all modes of transportation underscore the dangers of using portable electronic devices while operating a highway vehicle, plane, train, ship, or pipeline. In addition to banning these devices, education and organization policies help to reinforce laws and regulations by explaining the dangers of distraction and what organizations expect from their employees.

ELIMINATE SUBSTANCE-IMPAIRED DRIVING

In 2012 in the United States, more than 10,000 traffic deaths involved an alcohol-impaired driver. Drugs also affect driving ability. In order to prevent crashes, reduce injuries, and save lives, we need stronger laws, swifter enforcement, and expanded use of technology.

ENHANCE PIPELINE SAFETY

High pressure natural gas pipeline failures frequently result in explosive releases that, if ignited, become intense "jetfires" that can cause extensive damage. Safe operation of natural gas and hazardous liquid transmission pipelines is a shared responsibility among the operator, government oversight agencies, and local communities.

IMPROVE FIRE SAFETY IN TRANSPORTATION

Fire can contribute to accidents, injuries, and deaths in all modes of transportation. Fire safety in transportation concerns many elements, such as materials, design, and fire detection and suppression technologies. A common need in all transportation modes is for early fire detection and response.

GENERAL AVIATION: IDENTIFY AND COMMUNICATE HAZARDOUS WEATHER

A frequent cause or contributing factor to general aviation accidents is hazardous weather. While having weather information available to pilots, air traffic controllers, and meteorologists is crucial, proper understanding and use of this information is just as critical.

IMPLEMENT POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL SYSTEMS

The NTSB has been calling for the development and implementation of positive train control (PTC) systems since its investigation of a head-on collision between two commuter trains in 1969. PTC systems work by monitoring the location and movement of trains, then slowing or stopping a train that is not being operated in accordance with signal systems and/or operating rules.

PROMOTE OPERATIONAL SAFETY IN RAIL MASS TRANSIT

Public rail mass transit, comprised of light rail, commuter rail, and subways, affects the lives of millions of people daily. Although each system poses unique equipment, operating environments, and challenges, all can benefit from strengthening their organizational safety cultures.

STRENGTHEN OCCUPANT PROTECTION IN TRANSPORTATION

Steps to preventing injuries in the event of an accident are just as critical as identifying ways to prevent transportation accidents. Increasing the use of available occupant protection systems and improving crashworthiness to preserve survivable space can mean the difference between life and death. Whether traveling by air, rail, bus, or car, every occupant should be properly restrained.