



Safety Recommendation H-19-010

TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION, AND NATIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION: Recommend that your members verify that students are educated on how to operate the manual-release handle for front loading doors on school buses during evacuation training and drills.

Recommendation Details

 [Original recommendation transmittal letter](#)

Overall status	 Closed - Acceptable Action
Mode	 Highway
On Most Wanted List	No
Priority level	Non-urgent
Times reiterated	0
Is hazmat	No
Is NPRM	No
SR coding	
Date issued	07/16/2019
Overall date closed	08/20/2021

Event Details - HWY18MH003

On the morning of December 12, 2017, a school bus operated by the Riverside Community School District backed into a ditch on a rural road outside Oakland, Iowa, after picking up its first passenger, a 16-year-old female student. While the driver tried to drive the

bus out of the ditch, a fire began in the engine compartment and spread throughout the bus. The driver and passenger died in the fire. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation focused on school bus driver fitness for duty, school bus fire safety, and school bus emergency training. The NTSB made safety recommendations to the US Department of Transportation; the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); 44 states (including Iowa), the District of Columbia, and the territory of Puerto Rico; the state of Iowa; the Riverside Community School District; three school transportation associations; and seven school bus manufacturers. The NTSB also reiterated one recommendation to NHTSA and reclassified a previously issued recommendation to the three school transportation associations.

Location Oakland, USA
 Accident date 12/12/2017
 Accident # HWY18MH003
 Report # [HAR-19-01](#)

Addressee Details

- ✓ National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services - Closed - Acceptable Action - 08/20/2021 ✓
- ✓ National Association for Pupil Transportation - Closed - Acceptable Action - 01/02/2020 ✓
- ✓ National School Transportation Association - Closed - Acceptable Action - 01/02/2020 ^

Name National School Transportation Association
 Acronym NSTA
 Category Associations
 Addressee status Closed - Acceptable Action

From NTSB
 To National School Transportation Association
 Date 01/02/2020
 Type Official Correspondence
 Response

We are pleased that you provided the recommended information on manual-release handle operation to your members through your newsletter, meetings, seminars, and individual guidance. These actions satisfy the intent of Safety Recommendation H-19-10, which is classified CLOSED-ACCEPTABLE ACTION.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to improve school bus safety.

From National School Transportation Association
To NTSB
Date 09/19/2019
Type Official Correspondence
Response

-From Curt Macysyn, Executive Director to the National School Transportation Association: This letter is in reply to your e-mail and letter from July 16, 2019, regarding the above referenced safety recommendation from National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to National School Transportation Association (NSTA). This recommendation arose from the NTSB School Bus Run-Off-Road and Crash report of June 18, 2019. NSTA attended the June 18, 2019 NTSB Board meeting to listen to the testimony, as well as hear the NTSB's findings and recommendations. The meeting provided us to gather additional context and information that was disseminated to our members. We then set out a plan of communications that included our NSTA-64 newsletter, organizational committee meetings, seminars, and one on one guidance for individual members. Details follow.

Articles in NSTA's July/August 2019 newsletter included links to the NTSB's June 18, 2019 report along with summaries and information provided by the NSTA staff member, who attended the June 18 NTSB Board Meeting. NTSB findings and recommendations were reviewed in NSTA's Safety & Security Committee; Manufacturers, Suppliers, & Technology Committee; and Government Relations Committee. NSTA also reinforced these issues at the NSTA Annual Meeting and Convention in a workshop called: "Together, Keeping Students Safe and Secure". This was a live meeting with reports being offered by NSTA, as well as NASDPTS, NCST, ASBC, and NAPT. Additionally, NSTA frequently reminds members that the Association can assist them one on one as needed when issues or questions arise at their operations regarding safety or other matters.

As such, NSTA believes that we have successfully executed our mandate with respect to the recommendation. However, should you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

From NTSB
To National School Transportation Association
Date 07/16/2019
Type Transmittal Letter
Response

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.

The attached letter from the NTSB Chairman provides information about the NTSB's June 18, 2019, report School Bus Run-Off-Road and Fire, Oakland, Iowa, December 12, 2017, NTSB/HAR-19/01. The details of this accident investigation and the resulting safety recommendation may be found in the attached report, which can also be accessed at <http://www.nts.gov>. For more information about NTSB and our recommendation process, please see the attached one-page summary.

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 of the date of this letter, detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement these recommendations. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number (Safety Recommendation H-19-10). We encourage you to submit your response to ExecutiveSecretariat@nts.gov. If your reply exceeds 20 megabytes, including attachments, please e mail us at the same address for instructions on how to send larger documents. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

All communications regarding safety recommendations will be stored by the NTSB and viewable by the public. Please do not send privileged or confidential communications in response to this recommendation. Responses marked as confidential or privileged (or similar designations) will be considered nonresponsive. If you have concerns about this protocol, please contact us at ExecutiveSecretariat@ntsb.gov or call (202) 314-6290 and ask to be directed to the Safety Recommendations Division.

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 assist victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters.

We are providing the following information to urge the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) to act on the safety recommendation in this letter because we believe your organization can help reduce the risk of future accidents. For more information about the NTSB and our recommendation process, please see the attached one-page summary.

This letter provides information about our June 18, 2019, report School Bus Run-Off-Road and Fire, Oakland, Iowa, December 12, 2017, NTSB/HAR-19/01. The details of the accident investigation and the resulting safety recommendations may be found in the attached report, which can also be accessed at <http://www.nts.gov>.

As a result of its investigation, the NTSB identified the following safety issues:

- School bus driver fitness for duty, including physical performance tests and driver oversight by the Riverside Community School District.
- School bus fire safety, including fire suppression systems, fire-resistant interior materials, and federal fire safety performance standards.
- School bus emergency training, including evacuation drills and equipment.

Accordingly, the NTSB makes the following safety recommendation to the NSTA. Additional information regarding the recommendation can be found in the noted section of the report.

- Recommend that your members verify that students are educated on how to operate the manual release handle for

front loading doors on school buses during evacuation training and drills. (H-19-10) (See section 2.5.3.)

In the same report, we also classified a previously issued safety recommendation:

- Inform your members of the circumstances of the Baltimore school bus crash and lessons learned from the crash investigation to help raise awareness of the avenues available to report school bus drivers with medical conditions that may make it unsafe for them to operate a school bus. (H-18-16, classified “Closed—Acceptable Action” in section 2.3.5.)

The NTSB is vitally interested in our new recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate a response within 90 days of this letter, detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement the recommendation. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number (Safety Recommendation H-19-10). We encourage you to submit your response to ExecutiveSecretariat@nts.gov. If your reply, including attachments, exceeds 20 megabytes, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions on how to send larger documents. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

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