



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

---

*Office of Highway Safety*

**WILMER, TEXAS**

September 23, 2005



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

---

*Office of Highway Safety*

# Introduction

# Introduction

- Parties to investigation
- Parties to public hearing
- Sequence of events
- Safety issues

# Parties to Investigation

- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Dallas County Sheriff's Department

# Parties to Investigation

- Motor Coach Industries, Inc.
- ArvinMeritor, Inc.
- Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.

# Parties to Public Hearing

- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
- Motor Coach Industries, Inc.

# Parties to Public Hearing

- ArvinMeritor, Inc.
- Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.
- Sunrise Senior Living Services, Inc.
- United Motorcoach Association
- American Bus Association

# Hurricane Rita Preparations

- September 21, 2005, mayor of Galveston orders evacuation
- Texas Governor urges evacuation of coastal areas

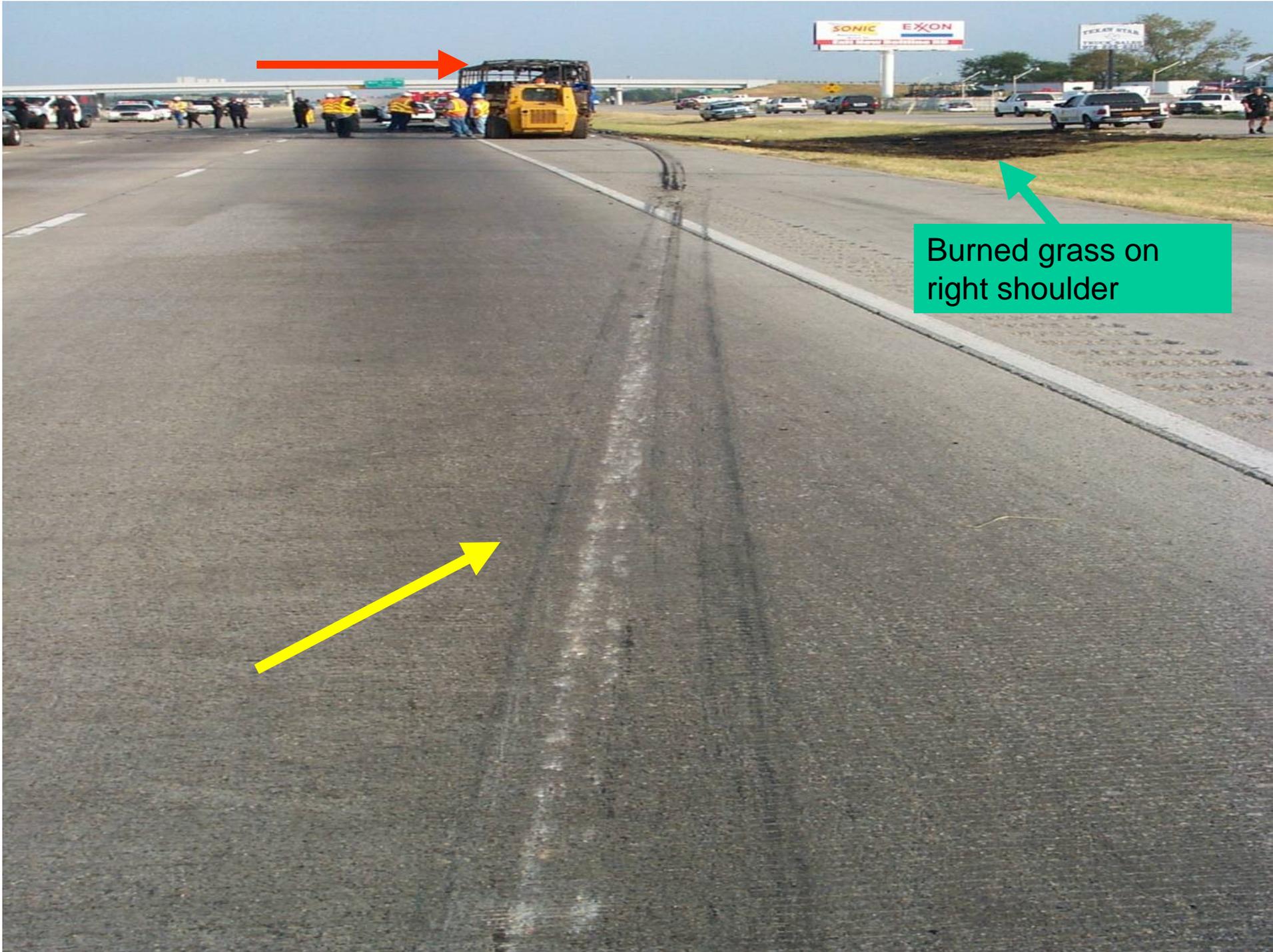
# Hurricane Rita Preparations

- Brighton Gardens vehicles insufficient for long trips
- Sunrise Senior Living Services, Inc., called BusBank to arrange transportation
- BusBank contracted with Global Limo for 2 motorcoaches
- Bellaire-to-Dallas trip expected to take 4 hours

# Evacuation Trip

- Driver departed Pharr, Texas, at 5:00 a.m., arrived in Bellaire at 11:00 a.m.
- Motorcoach loaded with 37 Sunrise residents, 6 nursing staff, and 1 nursing staff parent
- 22 wheelchairs, 5 walkers, and 18 medical oxygen cylinders loaded
- Motorcoach departed about 3:00 p.m.





Burned grass on right shoulder

# Sequence of Events

- 6:05 a.m.
  - Motorcoach stops on right shoulder near Mars Road exit
  - Fire in right-rear wheel discovered
  - Nursing staff assisted passengers off motorcoach
- 6:07 a.m., 911 call



Source: Dallas County  
Sheriff's Dept.

00:50



Source: KTVT News

01:33



Source: KTVT News

05:17



Source: KTVT News

06:30



Source: KTVT News



Source: Dallas County Sheriff's Dept.

# Safety Issues

- Manufacturer maintenance information on wheel bearing components
- Fire resistance of motorcoach materials and designs
- Emergency egress from motorcoaches
- FMCSA's ineffective compliance review program
- Transportation of partially pressurized aluminum cylinders



**NTSB**