



Friday, June 27, 2008

### **NTSB Recognizes Auto Industry for One Millionth Child Safety Seat Check**



NTSB Board Members and staff participated in two events the week of June 23rd related to child occupant protection. On Wednesday, June 25th, Member Debbie Hersman spoke at a press conference sponsored by Maryland State Delegate Bronrott at the Fitzgerald Auto Mall in Rockville, Maryland recognizing the state's new law that requires children up to age 8 to be restrained in a child safety seat. Member Hersman was accompanied by Kevin Quinlan, Stephanie Davis and Bridget Serchak. On Thursday, June 26th, Chairman Mark V. Rosenker presented NTSB Safety Leadership Awards to SAFE KIDS Worldwide and to the General Motors Corporation at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in recognition of the one millionth child safety seat check at their fitting stations around the United States. Chairman Rosenker was accompanied by Member Hersman, Elaine Weinstein, Kevin Quinlan, Danielle Roeber, Stephanie Davis, Bridget Serchak and Julie Perrot.

*From L-R: Steven O'Toole (General Motors), Marty Stoller (Safe Kids), Torine Creppy (Safe Kids), Chairman Mark Rosenker, Member Debbie Hersman, Rod Gillum (General Motors) and David Kelly (NHTSA).*

### **Chairman Rosenker Speaks to International Highway Safety Group**

On Monday, June 16, Chairman Mark Rosenker spoke before the Association for Safe International Road Travel. Chairman Rosenker began by emphasizing the three Es of traffic safety: education, enforcement and engineering solutions, and the need for advanced vehicle technology to cut traffic deaths. He noted that since the Safety Board's inception over 40 years ago, the agency has issued more than 2,100 highway safety recommendations. More than 1,800 of them have been acted upon - most of those led to safety improvements, such as improved protection for gas tanks on school buses, and the redesign of air bags.

To further reduce highway fatalities, the NTSB has recommended that all 50 states and U.S. territories have laws requiring booster seats for young children up to age 8, enact primary seat belt laws, enact graduated driver licensing legislation for teens which restrict the number of teens traveling with young novice drivers and prohibit the use of wireless communications devices by novice drivers, among other provisions

The Board has also recommended a wide range of actions for hard core drinking drivers. They include: frequent sobriety checkpoints; stricter sanctions for those arrested for the first time with a high blood alcohol concentration of 0.15 or higher; zero blood alcohol requirement for convicted driving-while-intoxicated offenders when they get their licenses back; and vehicle sanctions, such as ignition interlocks for those drivers.

Chairman Rosenker turned to the Board's support for intelligent highway design. "In 2001, the Safety Board conducted a special investigation of technology to prevent rear-end collisions and asked the government to complete rulemaking on performance standards for adopted cruise control and collision warning systems," he said.

Recently, the Board added enhanced vehicle safety technology to its Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements to increase awareness of safety steps that can help prevent accidents and save lives.

### **Vice Chairman Sumwalt Addresses SGA Safety and Health Round Table**

On Thursday, June 26, Vice Chairman Robert Sumwalt spoke at the Safety and Health Round Table during the Southern Gas Association's (SGA's) Environmental, Safety, and Training Conference in Charlotte, NC. During his presentation, the Vice Chairman focused on the importance of safety within the gas industry and addressed the need for a positive safety culture for all companies in gas operations. He discussed pipeline accidents investigated by the Safety Board, as well as recommendations stemming from these accidents. "A common thread throughout many accidents investigated by the Board - throughout all transportation modes, including pipeline - is the lack of corporate leadership focus on safety."

The conference was attended by many representatives from natural gas transmission and distribution companies. SGA has been a leader in the natural gas industry for 100 years and represents members from over 300 gas companies in 12 southeastern states.



## ***NTSB Presents at Fatigue Symposium***

An NTSB team of experts led off an FAA-sponsored conference titled, "Aviation Fatigue Management Symposium: Partnerships for Solutions" on June 17-19. Vice Chairman Robert Sumwalt gave a keynote address during the morning session of the conference. He applauded the FAA for bringing together representatives from industry, employee groups and government agencies to find workable solutions and noted the large attendance of more than 300 participants.

Dr. Vern Ellingstad chaired the "Operational Drivers of Fatigue: NTSB Findings" panel discussion in which Dr. Malcom Brenner, Dr. William Bramble and Dr. Jana Price participated. They discussed operational factors contributing to fatigue during flight operations, factors contributing to fatigue in air traffic control settings, and the evolution of NTSB fatigue related recommendations.

The NTSB has had a long-standing concern about fatigue. As the vice chairman and those on the panel described, fatigue has been on the Safety Board's Most Wanted List since its inception in 1990. During the last 15 years, the NTSB has investigated several accidents that were related to fatigue with over 250 fatalities in air carrier accidents alone. There have been countless general aviation fatalities as well. According to Dr. Price, there have been 117 recommendations issued by the NTSB since 1972, 34 of which relate to aviation.

It is the hope of those from the Safety Board who contributed to the symposium that action will be taken soon. The NTSB favors a comprehensive approach to remedy the fatigue issue to include not only established working hour limitations based on fatigue research but also fatigue management systems that allow a more tailored approach to address fatigue in the workplace.

## ***Board Members Visit UAV Operations Centers***

Board Members Kitty Higgins and Steve Chealander traveled this week to Beale Air Force Base in California and Creech Air Force Base in Nevada. During the visits, the Members observed operation, control, and maintenance of a US Air Force Global Hawk, Predator, and Reaper. They reviewed and discussed safety procedures, post-flight maintenance and inspection procedures, and trouble-shooting procedures used by Air Force personnel with senior USAF personnel at both bases. During the visit, Member Higgins successfully landed the Global Hawk at Beale AFB and Member Chealander successfully landed the Reaper at Creech AFB.

The Board Members were accompanied by Dana Schulze, Division Chief of Major Investigations, Office of Aviation Safety; and their special assistants, Mary Jane Smith and Denise Daniels.

## ***NTSB Participates in Truck Stability Demonstration***



NTSB employees from the offices of Highway Safety, Research & Engineering, Safety Recommendations and Accomplishments, and Public Affairs participated in a heavy truck full stability ride-along demonstration sponsored by Bendix Corporation at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, June 24th. The group viewed and participated in the demos of two intelligent transportation systems, electronic stability control and automated cruise control, and their application in heavy-duty trucks.

Board participants included (from left to right) Keith Holloway, Jennifer Morrison, Peter Knudson, Bruce Coury, Julie Perrot, Bridget Serchak, Pat Cariseo, and Rafael Marshall. Dan Horak and Shane Lack also participated but were not present for the photo.

## ***NTSB Receives Award for Acquisition Accomplishment***

On June 12, the NTSB was presented with an award from the Department of Veterans Affairs for exceeding the government-wide contracting goal to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.

Each fiscal year, the Small Business Administration (SBA) establishes statutory goals for Federal executive agencies to ensure that small businesses obtain a fair share of federal procurement dollars. One of the categories, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), had a goal of 3% for FY2007. This required the NTSB to award at least 3% of their overall procurement dollars through contracts to small businesses that were classified as service-disabled veteran-owned. The NTSB not only met, but significantly exceeded, this goal by achieving 17.16%. For this achievement, the NTSB received the Federal Champion Award.

