



NTSB 2017-2018

# MOST WANTED LIST OF

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAIL

**MWL**

MOST WANTED LIST



PIPELINE

**T**he National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency that investigates accidents, determines their probable cause, and recommends ways to prevent them from happening again. The NTSB's work has been called the "gold standard" of accident investigations worldwide.

Established in 1967, the NTSB is charged with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States as well as significant accidents in other modes of transportation, including highway, marine, pipeline and hazardous materials, and rail. The Board's five members are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The agency's staff of about 400 includes investigators, technical experts, and support personnel.

Tens of thousands of people die in transportation accidents and crashes every year—our neighbors, our coworkers, our schoolmates, our family members. But they don't have to. Most of these deaths are completely preventable.

With each accident, we learn lessons about safety gaps and make recommendations that, if acted upon, could close these gaps.

The **MOST WANTED LIST**, organized by topic area, is the NTSB's premier advocacy tool. It identifies the top safety improvements that can be made across all modes to prevent accidents and save lives in the future. These issue areas are both significant in impact and ripe for action.

The **MOST WANTED LIST** is our road map from lessons learned to lives saved. We urge lawmakers to adopt lifesaving solutions, industry to implement safety technologies and programs, and every American to learn more and take personal responsibility where they can to control their own outcomes.

**Together, we can save lives.**



**NTSB**

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# **MOST WANTED LIST** OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

**Increase  
Implementation  
of Collision  
Avoidance  
Technologies**

**Prevent  
Loss of Control  
in Flight  
in General  
Aviation**

**End Alcohol  
and Other Drug  
Impairment in  
Transportation**

**Require  
Medical Fitness**

**Strengthen  
Occupant  
Protection**

**Ensure the  
Safe Shipment  
of Hazardous  
Materials**

**Improve Rail  
Transit Safety  
Oversight**

**Reduce  
Fatigue-  
Related  
Accidents**

**Eliminate  
Distractions**

**Expand  
Recorder Use  
to Enhance  
Safety**





## Increase Implementation of Collision Avoidance Technologies

**H**umans make mistakes, even in transportation. Transportation operators must always walk a demanding line of alertness and vigilance, but collision avoidance technologies can provide a lifesaving safety net.

Technologies such as collision warning and autonomous emergency braking in highway vehicles and positive train control in trains will result in fewer accidents, fewer injuries, and fewer lives lost.

**These technologies are available today. They should be implemented today.**





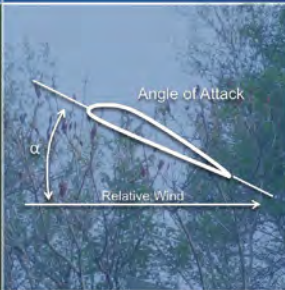
## Ensure the Safe Shipment of Hazardous Materials



Increased volumes of hazardous materials—especially flammable liquids—are moving by rail. Meanwhile, expanded lithium battery use poses a threat to safe airplane operation.

**We must ensure hazardous materials are moved safely to avoid deadly accidents and environmental damage. It is also critical to renew focus on proper emergency response training and notification, as well as on adequate resource allocation to ensure first responders are prepared to handle hazardous materials in the event of an accident.**







## Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation



**N**early half of all general aviation accidents are caused by loss of control in flight. To prevent unintended departures from flight and better manage stalls, pilots need more training and a better awareness of the technologies that can help prevent these tragedies.

NTSB data from 2008-2014 confirm that loss of control continues to be the biggest killer in general aviation.

**Better training on how to eliminate distraction, avoid stalls, and manage weather issues will put pilots back in control and give them better command of their outcomes.**





## Improve Rail Transit Safety Oversight



Ineffective safety oversight is a contributing factor in many rail transit accidents. It is critically important that rail transit systems be constantly monitored and improved to maintain and enhance safety so small problems can be caught before they become big ones.

**Without changes in public transit system oversight, accidents will continue to happen.**





## End Alcohol and Other Drug Impairment in Transportation

AVIATION



HIGHWAY



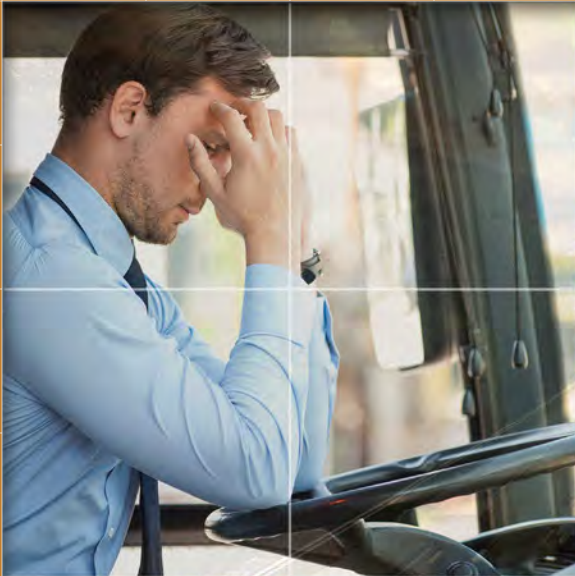
RAIL



**A**lcohol is one of many impairing drugs, and it continues to contribute to transportation fatalities. Marijuana decriminalization, increasing use of dangerous synthetic drugs, and a dramatic rise in over-the-counter and prescription medication use and abuse mean that impaired vehicle operation has become a more complex problem than ever.

**Every transportation death caused by alcohol or other drug impairment is preventable. To end the epidemic of impairment in transportation, we must pass and enforce laws and educate the public.**





## Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents

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**F**atigue can be just as deadly in transportation as alcohol and drug impairment, and fatigued drivers and operators regularly cause accidents. Finding and treating fatigue-related medical issues and knowing the fatiguing effects of medications are part of the solution.

**Ultimately, fatigue-related accidents can be prevented if drivers, commercial vehicle operators, and safety-critical professionals get adequate rest.**







## Require Medical Fitness

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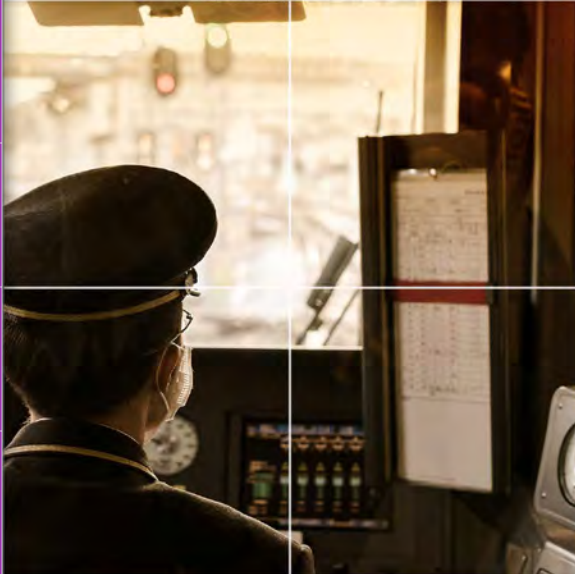
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Operators, maintenance personnel, and other safety-critical transportation professionals must be medically fit to keep the public safe.

**Company owners and government regulators must develop policies to ensure that safety-critical personnel are medically fit for duty, and transportation professionals have a personal responsibility to ensure their own health and welfare.**





## Eliminate Distractions

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In transportation, distraction kills. Drivers and operators in all modes must keep their hands, eyes, and minds focused on operating their vehicle.

**Ultimately, eliminating distractions in transportation will require changes in regulations as well as in driver and operator thinking and behavior.**





## Strengthen Occupant Protection

AVIATION



HIGHWAY



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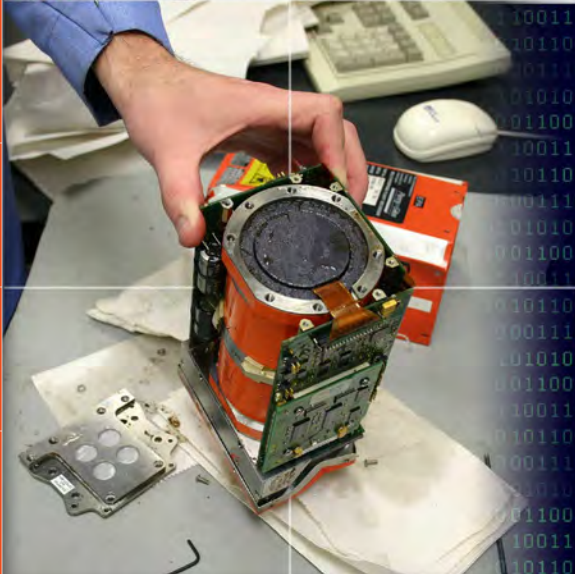


Proper use of seat belts and restraints—specifically for young children, even on airplanes—is key to surviving an accident or crash. But the threat doesn't end there.

Once passengers survive a crash due to effective occupant protection, it is important they don't then succumb to post-crash fire or injury caused by structural or debris impacts.

**To minimize deaths and injuries in all modes of transportation, occupant protection systems need to be better designed to preserve survivable space and ensure ease of evacuation.**





## Expand Recorder Use to Enhance Safety

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Data from recorders can help investigators determine the cause of an accident, but an operator can also use recorders to identify and correct unsafe operations and prevent accidents in the first place. Yet many vessels, vehicles, trains, and aircraft still lack this readily available and affordable technology.

**Regulators must mandate recorder use and operators must proactively install the technology so valuable data can be used to improve safety.**





NTSB 2017-2018  
**MOST  
WANTED  
LIST** OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
SAFETY  
IMPROVEMENTS



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