



Status Report of National Rail Safety Action Plan

RAIL SAFETY ISSUE	ACTION ITEM	STATUS
Reduce Human Factor Accidents	Develop and issue proposed federal rule to address top human factor /operating practices causes of accidents	Submitted to Rail Safety Advisory Committee in May 2005 On schedule for FRA to publish Proposed Rule in Sept 2006
	Establish "Close Call" pilot project to learn from incidents that could have caused accidents, but did not	First pilot site to be selected in early 2006 Target date to start data collection July 2006
Address Fatigue	Accelerate research on railroad crew work history to validate fatigue model for possible use to improve crew scheduling	Final report expected by Aug 2006
Improve Track Safety	Demonstrate vehicle-mounted imaging technology to analyze rail joint bars to identify and detect cracks that lead to derailments	Testing commenced on schedule in Oct 2005 New enhancements to be field tested by summer 2006
	Deploy two additional automated track inspection vehicles	First vehicle on schedule to be operational by Sept 2006 Second vehicle on schedule to be operational by Dec 2006
Improve Hazmat Safety and Emergency Response Capability	Identify promising technology to improve safety in dark territory	Pilot project to test technology that remotely monitors switch positions in dark territory started in Nov 2005 / Final report expected Aug 2006
	Ensure emergency responders have timely access to key train hazardous materials information	Pilot project for new hazardous materials information delivery program initiated July 2005 / Completed Dec 2005 / Review results Jan 2006
	Accelerate tank car structural integrity research	FRA added resources to push completion date forward by one year to Aug 2007 / Dynamic Fracture Toughness Testing begins Feb 2006
Strengthen FRA Compliance and Enforcement Program	Make better use of data with new National Inspection Plan to direct FRA safety inspectors to where problems are likely to arise	Track, Operating Practices, Motive Power & Equipment started Oct 2005 Signals & Train Control Jan 2006 / Hazardous Materials March 2006
Further Improve Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety	Build partnership with state/local agencies and emphasize railroad responsibilities at highway-rail grade crossings	Safety Advisory issued May 2005 and widely distributed
	Aid Louisiana DOT in development of highway-rail grade crossing action plan	Louisiana DOT reviewing final draft of Action Plan in Aug 2005 Hurricanes pushed back expected announcement to Spring 2006



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