



ACCIDENT SUMMARY

**Fatal Grade Crossing Accident
Midland, TX; 11/15/2012**

HWY-13-MH-003
(2 Pages)

Accident Summary

On Thursday, November 15, 2012, about 4:35 pm CST, a 2006 Peterbilt truck-tractor in combination with a 2005 Transcraft D-Eagle drop deck semitrailer was traveling southbound on South Garfield Street in Midland, Midland County, Texas and was being utilized as a "Hunt for Heroes" parade float, sponsored by the "Show of Support" non-profit organization. The parade float was owned and operated by Smith Industries, and was occupied by 24 individuals and a 50-year-old driver.

The parade route took the parade float across a railroad grade crossing owned and operated by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and was identified by DOT grade crossing inventory #796-331L, at UPRR Mile Post 554.65. The grade crossing was protected by gates and flashing red lights.

At the same time, Union Pacific Freight Train ZLCAI-14, (train) consisting of 4 locomotives and 84 loaded cars was approaching from the west on a scheduled trip from Los Angeles, CA, to a final destination of Atlanta, GA. The train was occupied by a 35 year old engineer and a 27 year old conductor. As the train approached the crossing the parade float entered the grade crossing at an estimated speed of 5 miles per hour. The locomotive engineer sounded the locomotive horn and placed the train brakes into an emergency brake application. As the train was decelerating to a stop the right front corner of the locomotive unit struck the flatbed semitrailer on the right rear. The parade float was thrown approximately 30 feet to the south side of the crossing where it struck a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, occupied by a Deputy of the Midland County Texas Sheriff's Office. The train travelled a total of 4,143 feet from the time it was placed in emergency until it came to a complete stop.

As a result of the accident, four (4) parade float passengers were fatally injured, 13 parade float passengers and a Sherriff's Office Deputy were injured. The two train crew members, the parade float driver, and seven (7) parade float passengers were not injured.

END OF SUMMARY