



ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Bus Struck Object on Roadway, Ran Off Roadway, Train Crash Penwell, TX

HWY-15-MH-004
(3 Pages)



**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20594**

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

A. ACCIDENT

Type: Bus Struck Object on Roadway, Ran Off Roadway, Train Crash
Date and Time: January 14, 2015 at 07:49 a.m. CST
Location: Interstate 20 (I-20) Ector County near Penwell, Texas
Vehicle #1: 2015 Bluebird bus
Operator#1: Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Vehicle #2: Union Pacific Train Q40927, consisting of 4 locomotives, 58 cars
Operator#2: Union Pacific Railroad
Fatalities: 10
Injuries: 5

NTSB #: **HWY15MH004**

B. ACCIDENT SUMMARY

About 7:50 a.m. (local time) on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, a 2015 Bluebird bus operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice was traveling westbound on Interstate 20 (I-20) near Penwell, in Ector County, Texas. The bus, which was occupied by three corrections officers and 12 inmates, was enroute from the Middleton Corrections Facility in Abilene, Texas, to the Sanchez Facility in El Paso, Texas. In the area of mile-marker 103 the median guardrail was damaged due to an accident on January 13, 2015 and three accidents attributed to icy road conditions the day of this accident. The last accident occurred about 7:35 a.m. and displaced the guardrail further onto the edge of the left westbound lane. As the bus approached mile-marker 103 it was traveling behind a tractor semitrailer and alongside a tractor semitrailer in the right lane. The left front tire of the bus struck the damaged guardrail resulting in a loss of control. The bus went off the left edge of the roadway and overrode the W-beam guardrail that was severely

damaged by other recent collisions and offered no retention. The bus traveled about 22 feet across the earthen median. The bus went airborne and impacted an earthen area at the base of a concrete slope. The bus continued forward and impacted the side of a trailer on an eastbound Union Pacific (UP) freight train traveling at 45 mph under the highway overpass. The UP train was comprised of four locomotives and 58 cars that was traveling from Los Angeles, California to Marion, Arkansas. As a result of the crash, two corrections officers and eight inmates were fatally injured. The remaining bus occupants were transported to Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, Texas for treatment of their injuries.

End of Report