



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
**Investigative Hearing**

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrorail train 302 that encountered heavy smoke in the tunnel between the L'Enfant Plaza Station and the Potomac River Bridge on January 12, 2015

<b>GROUP</b>	
<b>EXHIBIT</b>	

Agency / Organization

Title



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

# SA-15-1

## Safety Advisory

06/17/2015

Office of Transit Safety and Oversight  
Washington, DC

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[http://www.fta.dot.gov/tso\\_15922.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/tso_15922.html)

*Safety Advisories contain important safety information and recommended actions. Safety Advisory content is especially valuable to transit operators in meeting their responsibility to provide oversight and service with the highest possible degree of safety in the public interest.*

**Subject. Audit All Rail Fixed Guideway Public Transportation Systems (RFGPTS) with Subway Tunnel Environments**

**Purpose.** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is issuing Safety Advisory 15-1 to inform rail fixed guideway public transportation systems (RFGPTS) of planned audits to be conducted by State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOAs). This safety advisory identifies specific areas of concern identified by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

**Background.** The NTSB issued Safety Recommendation R-15-007 (Urgent) to the FTA on February 11, 2015. The safety recommendation is a part of the NTSB's on-going investigation of an electrical arcing and smoke event.

**Actions.** SSOAs will audit RTAs to:

- 1) Determine the extent of subway tunnel mileage and characteristics at each RFGPTS, and complete a Tunnel Ventilation System Inspection for each RFGPTS with subway tunnel mileage;
- 2) Assess each RFGPTS' written emergency procedures for fire and smoke events;
- 3) Assess each RFGPTS' training programs to ensure compliance with those procedures; and
- 4) Determine each RFGPTS' compliance with industry best standards, such as NFPA 130, Standard for Fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems, in its maintenance and emergency procedures.

**Contact:** If you or your staff have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please direct your questions to Ms. Kimberly Burtch, Office of System Safety, at (202) 366-0816 or email: [Kimberly.Burtch@dot.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Burtch@dot.gov).