



**Authorization to use DPS Vehicle Inspection Report**

**Monaville, Texas December 17, 2021**

**HWY22FH002**

**(6 pages)**

**From:** [Teeter, Bart](#)  
**To:** [Joanne Cisneros](#); [Laponte Michael](#); [Michael Jordan](#); [Kimberly Lambert](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NTSB Request: Texas DPS Vehicle Inspection Report (Monaville, Texas; Crash Date 12/17/2021)  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:35:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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All,

As you can see from Lt. Lee's response, this is not intended to be confidential in most cases. The newer version of the form doesn't contain that caveat.

You may use this email as confirmation that the document can be used. If that doesn't satisfy your needs, let me know and I can manually redact the 'confidential' language and send you a new copy.

Take Care,

Bart

Captain Bart Teeter  
Texas Highway Patrol  
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Lee, Rae Shely" [REDACTED]  
**Date:** March 21, 2023 at 11:23:40 AM CDT  
**To:** "Teeter, Bart" [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: NTSB Request: Texas DPS Vehicle Inspection Report (Monaville, Texas; Crash Date 12/17/2021)

Captain Teeter,

The version of the HP-7 – Major Crash Investigation Packet utilized in this crash was not the most recent version available. The current version does not include the "TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – CONFIDENTIAL" wording at the bottom of each page anymore.

Regardless, this document was never intended to be kept confidential or prevented from being released UNLESS it is the subject of an open criminal investigation. I can't speak for that in this exact case, but the wording on the bottom of the page in and of itself, was never meant to be construed as un-releasable under most circumstances. We routinely released this document in Public Information Requests.

The entire document would have to be re-typed on a newer version of the from in order to remove the wording, but a letter from the investigator indicating the crash is not an open criminal investigation would likely resolve the issue and allow the release of the document.

Shely Lee, Lieutenant  
State Crash Reconstruction Team  
5805 N. Lamar Blvd.  
Building G Annex  
Austin, TX 78752  
512-424-2250 - office

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Teeter, Bart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:50 AM  
**To:** Lee, Rae Shely [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: NTSB Request: Texas DPS Vehicle Inspection Report (Monaville, Texas; Crash Date 12/17/2021)

Shely,

Can you shed some light on this? Does this ever become publicly releasable?

Thanks,

Bart

Captain Bart A. Teeter  
Texas Highway Patrol  
Commercial Vehicle Enforcment  
Austin

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**From:** Cisneros, Joanne (FMCSA) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:07 AM  
**To:** Jordan, Michael (FMCSA) [REDACTED]; Laponte Michael  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Lambert, Kimberly (FMCSA) [REDACTED]; Teeter, Bart  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: NTSB Request: Texas DPS Vehicle Inspection Report (Monaville, Texas; Crash Date 12/17/2021)

[REDACTED]

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Good morning all. I've looped in Capt. Teeter on this email exchange. He is our primary DPS contact. His office number is 512-424-2728.

Bart – please see info below and attached on a request from our Office of the Inspector General related to confidentiality of the report. Is this something you can help with? Or can you refer us to a DPS attorney that might be able to assist?

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**From:** Jordan, Michael (FMCSA) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 12:56 PM  
**To:** Laponte Michael [REDACTED] Cisneros, Joanne (FMCSA)  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Lambert, Kimberly (FMCSA) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NTSB Request: Texas DPS Vehicle Inspection Report (Monaville, Texas; Crash Date 12/17/2021)

Good morning/afternoon.

**Subject:** The National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) investigation of a single-vehicle, run-off-the-road, rollover crash involving a school bus that occurred near Monaville, Texas on December 17, 2021. The crash resulted in the fatal injury of 1 adult school attendant and injury of 4 special needs students.

**Mike LaPonte (NTSB):** Following up on our conversation a few moments ago. It appears that crash reports are available via the Texas Department of Transportation; however, a member of the public must submit a request for the report and pay a fee ([see https://www.txdot.gov/data-maps/crash-reports-records.html](https://www.txdot.gov/data-maps/crash-reports-records.html)). Going that route, it's not clear whether the report obtained would still include the word "confidential" on each page when received. I'm reaching out to Joanne Cisneros, Division Administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Texas Division Office, to see if she has a point of contact in the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) who can potentially assist you with your request.

**Joanne Cisneros (FMCSA):** NTSB's investigation team has encountered a slight snag in obtaining a usable "vehicle inspection report" for inclusion in its Public Docket for the Monaville, Texas crash investigation. The current version of the vehicle inspection report ([see attached](#)) contains the word "confidential" at the bottom of each page. This is creating an internal issue at NTSB (from either counsel or its front office) where there is push-back for including a "confidential" report in the public docket for its crash investigation.

NTSB has asked FMCSA for assistance in connecting with a Texas DPS Official who can either (1) provide a copy of the attached "vehicle inspection report for a major crash" that does not include the word "confidential" or (2) provide authorization (in the form of written approval from said official) for NTSB to include the "confidential" report in its public docket for the Monaville, Texas crash investigation.

**Note:** Mr. LaPonte did note that Texas DPS is a Party to NTSB's Monaville, Texas crash investigation.

Any assistance you can provide in referring Mr. LaPonte to a Texas DPS Official who can resolve this request would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

**Michael Jordan**, Management & Program Analyst  
Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Division  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

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**From:** Jordan, Michael (FMCSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 9:56 AM  
**To:** Laponte Michael [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Texas DPS Report

Received. I'll see what I can find on my end before looping the TX Division Office in on this request.

Hold please.

**Michael Jordan**, Management & Program Analyst  
Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Division  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

<image001.png>

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**From:** Laponte Michael [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 9:54 AM  
**To:** Jordan, Michael (FMCSA) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Texas DPS Report

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Mr. Jordan, here is the report we discussed.

Thanks

Mike



<!--[if !vml]-->

<!--[endif]-->Michael LaPonte

*Highway Crash Investigator*

*NTSB – Office of Highway Safety*

*490 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20594*



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