

FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

2019 Joint SSO and RTA Workshop

FTA Two-Hour Accident Notification Guidance

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Overview

- Background (Requirements and Guidance Sources)
- Two-Hour Accident Notification Guidance
- Two-Hour Accident Notification Issues
- Key Takeaways
- Question and Answer Session

Objectives

- Review Two-Hour Accident Notification requirements and FTA guidance
- Identify related accident notification requirements
- Review recurring issues with accident notifications to the FTA
- Clarify FTA expectations for notifications
- Q&A and written questions for a FTA response

Two-Hour Accident Notification Requirements

Two-Hour Accident Notification Requirement

§ 674.33 Notifications of accidents.

(a) Two-hour notification. In addition to the requirements for accident notification set forth in an SSO program standard, an RTA must notify both the SSOA and the FTA within two hours of any accident occurring on a rail fixed guideway public transportation system. The criteria and thresholds for accident notification and reporting are defined in a reporting manual developed for the electronic reporting system specified by FTA as required in § 674.39(b), and in the appendix.

Sources of Two-Hour Accident Notification Guidance

- The FTA has published a Two-Hour Accident Notification Guide and Checklist
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/two-hour-accident-notification-guide>
 - Two-Hour Accident Notification Guide
 - Two-Hour Accident Notification Quick Reference Checklist
- Relevant guidance also is available in the National Transit Database (NTD) glossary
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/ntd/national-transit-database-ntd-glossary>

Two-Hour Accident Notification Guidance

- Accident notifications to be submitted by the RTA to the FTA must be:
 - Made via the DOT's Transportation Operations Center (TOC) (*Previously known as the Crisis Management Center (CMC)*) – Email notification preferred
 - Made using the 49 CFR § 674.33 accident thresholds as described in the State Safety Oversight (SSO) Rule
 - Made using the clarifications provided in the FTA's Two-Hour Accident Notification Guide

Two-Hour Accident Notification Guidance

- The SSOA has the authority to exceed the FTA Two-Hour Accident Notification requirements
 - Do not provide these additional notifications to the FTA
- New or revised SSO Program Standards should document the requirements for accident notifications to both the SSOA and FTA

Accident Notification Issues

- Serious Injury (As defined by SSO Rule and NTD)
 - Use facts, observations and best judgment to determine if there is a serious injury
 - Some serious injuries such as severe burns, broken bones or severe bleeding can readily be identified by observation or through statements made by persons responding or involved
- When the extent of the injury is not known please notify only if:
 - There was an immediate transport for medical treatment
 - At the time when the serious injury is identified or reported
- This requirement excludes:
 - Serious injuries or medical transport resulting from illness or other natural causes

Accident Notification Issues

- Rail Transit Vehicle (RTV) Collisions
 - Notification is required for:
 - Any collision between a RTV and another RTV regardless of injury or damage
 - RTV collisions resulting in a fatality, serious injury or substantial property damage as defined in the Two-Hour Accident Notification Guide and NTD
 - Notifications of RTV collisions at grade crossing are often provided when there is no fatality, serious injury or substantial property damage reported

Accident Notification Issues

- Rail Transit Vehicle (RTV) Collisions (Continued)
 - Provide notification of RTV collision as substantial damage if:
 - The RTV or other vehicle are towed
 - There are vehicle damages where on-site repairs must be made before they are safe to operate
 - There are infrastructure damages that must be repaired before they are safe to operate

Accident Notification Issues

- Rail Transit Vehicle (RTV) Collisions (Continued)
 - When there is no fatality or substantial property damage notify the FTA when there is a known serious injury
 - When the extent of the injury is not known only notify the FTA when:
 - There was an immediate transport to the hospital for medical treatment
 - At the time a serious injury is identified or reported
 - For FTA accident notifications the substantial damage threshold only applies to collisions involving an RTV

Accident Notification Issues

- Evacuation (Life Safety Reason)
 - Only provide accident notifications for evacuations that are made for a “Life Safety Reason” as defined in the Two-Hour Accident Notification Guide and NTD
 - Evacuations or off loading of passengers for service problems such as mechanical breakdowns, loss of power or system failures that did not involve a “life safety reason” do not require notification to FTA

Accident Notification Issues

- Derailments
 - Notify for derailments as defined by the NTD Glossary
 - The NTD defines derailments as *“A non-collision event in which one or more wheels of a rail transit vehicle unintentionally leaves the rails. Can be found in: S&S-40”*
 - For split or traileed switches, if one or more wheels do not unintentionally leave the rails do not notify
 - Do not report these events into the NTD as derailments

Key Takeaways

- Only provide the FTA with accident notifications as required by the SSO rule and clarified in the FTA guidance for Two-Hour Accident Notifications
- Update your SSOA/RTA notification forms or templates to reflect current rule requirements
- Collisions other than an RTV to RTV must have a fatality, serious injury or substantial property damage to trigger an FTA notification

Key Takeaways

- Provide as much information as possible in your notification
 - What is required by the SSOA
 - Number of fatalities, serious injures or persons transported
 - Did the RTV collision result in substantial or disabling damage or damage that required repair or towing

Questions?

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