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Abstract of an Accident

Accident Type: Bus traffic Accident
Injury: Driver and passenger - broken nose and hairline crack to a neck vertebrae
Type of Work: Personnel bus transport
Equipment: USN 44 passenger bus



DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

- ◆ Bus ran into the back of a semi truck.
- ◆ Indications are that driver wasn't wearing seat belt.
- ◆ Appears to not be related to manufacturer defects. Maintenance records indicate that in 2004 the filter element on the air drier system was removed and according to mechanics was not replaced. In March 2005, the bus involved in the mishap was sent to a local commercial repair shop to have the complete brake system replaced. Although 2 years elapsed the shop personnel believe the system was never serviced or repaired by the commercial vendor. The last PM performed on bus was in March 2007. One of the issues reported on the inspection card was the brakes. However, prior to that both buses were due for registration in January 2007. Both buses failed the initial safety inspection due to faulty brakes. The in-house maintenance shop made the adjustments and performed maintenance to bring them up to standard to pass safety inspection.
- ◆ Based on Shop Mechanics inspection since the accident both buses are still missing the filtering element to the brake air drier system. The conclusion is that this could have contributed to the brake failure.
- ◆ The BSVE PLC has requested all PMs for all equipment be examined to ensure missed or incomplete repairs are identified and corrected.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ Brake failure.

INDIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ Deficiency in maintenance systems ensuring brake air drier system is in place and functioning.
- ◆ Not wearing seatbelt.

ROOT CAUSE:

- ◆ During previous inspections maintenance personnel knew the part was missing but did not execute measures to abate the hazard by assuring it was installed.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- ◆ Checks during vehicle inspections should be made to ensure buses have the filtering element to the brake air drier system installed and functioning. Prior to any bus movement this element needs to be installed. Without this system part there will be excessive water build up, sediment, algae and other growth in the brake system (which was found in the system after the accident).
- ◆ Improve process to assure hazardous condition is identified and eliminated.
- ◆ Improve awareness training of mechanics and managers for identification of the brake system.

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