



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Highway Safety

**Public Hearing
Wilmer, Texas
Motorcoach Fire
September 23, 2005**

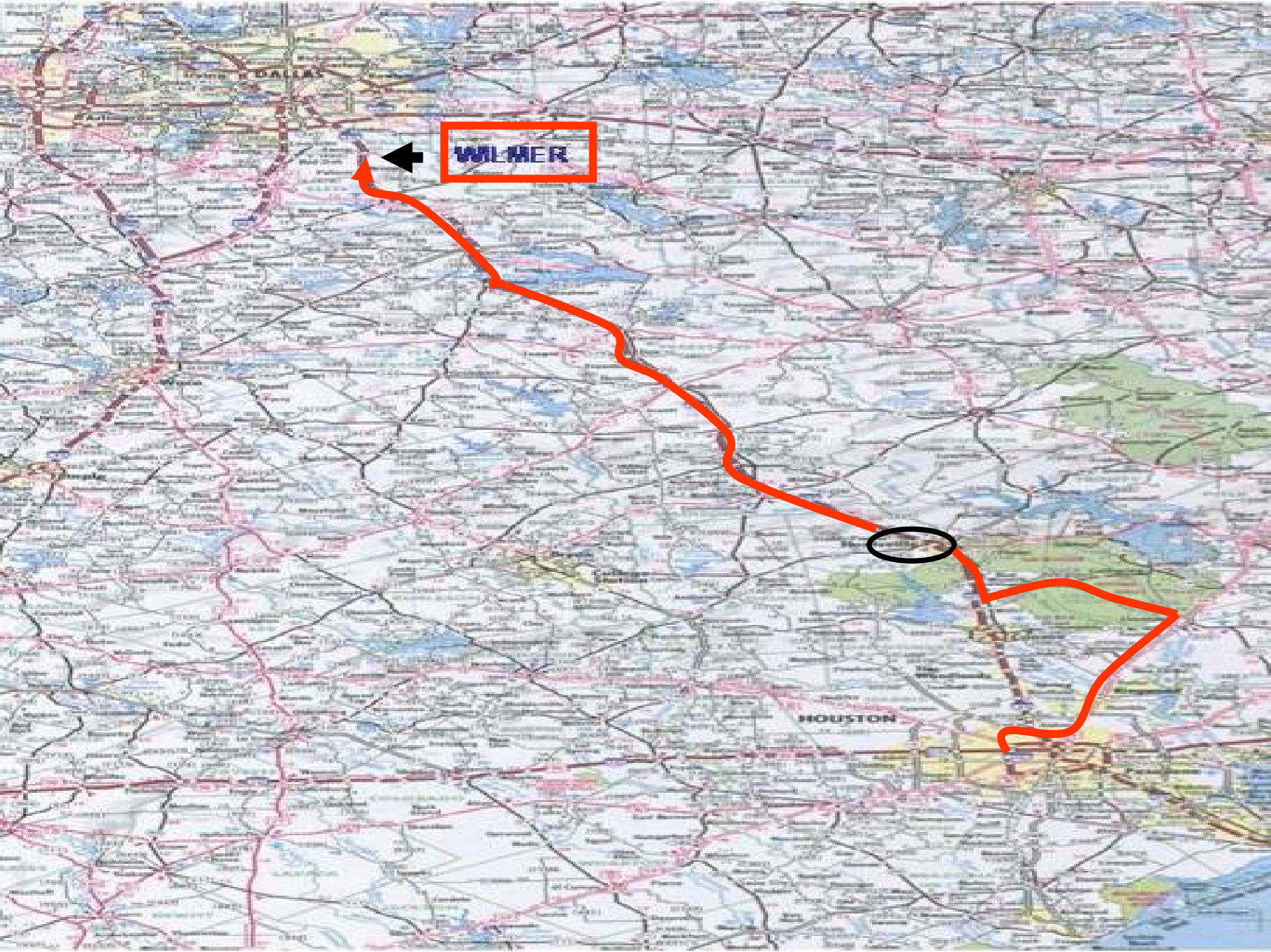


Houston
Galveston

Path of Hurricane Rita
Landfall in Texas September 23

Path of Hurricane Katrina
August 2005





WILMER

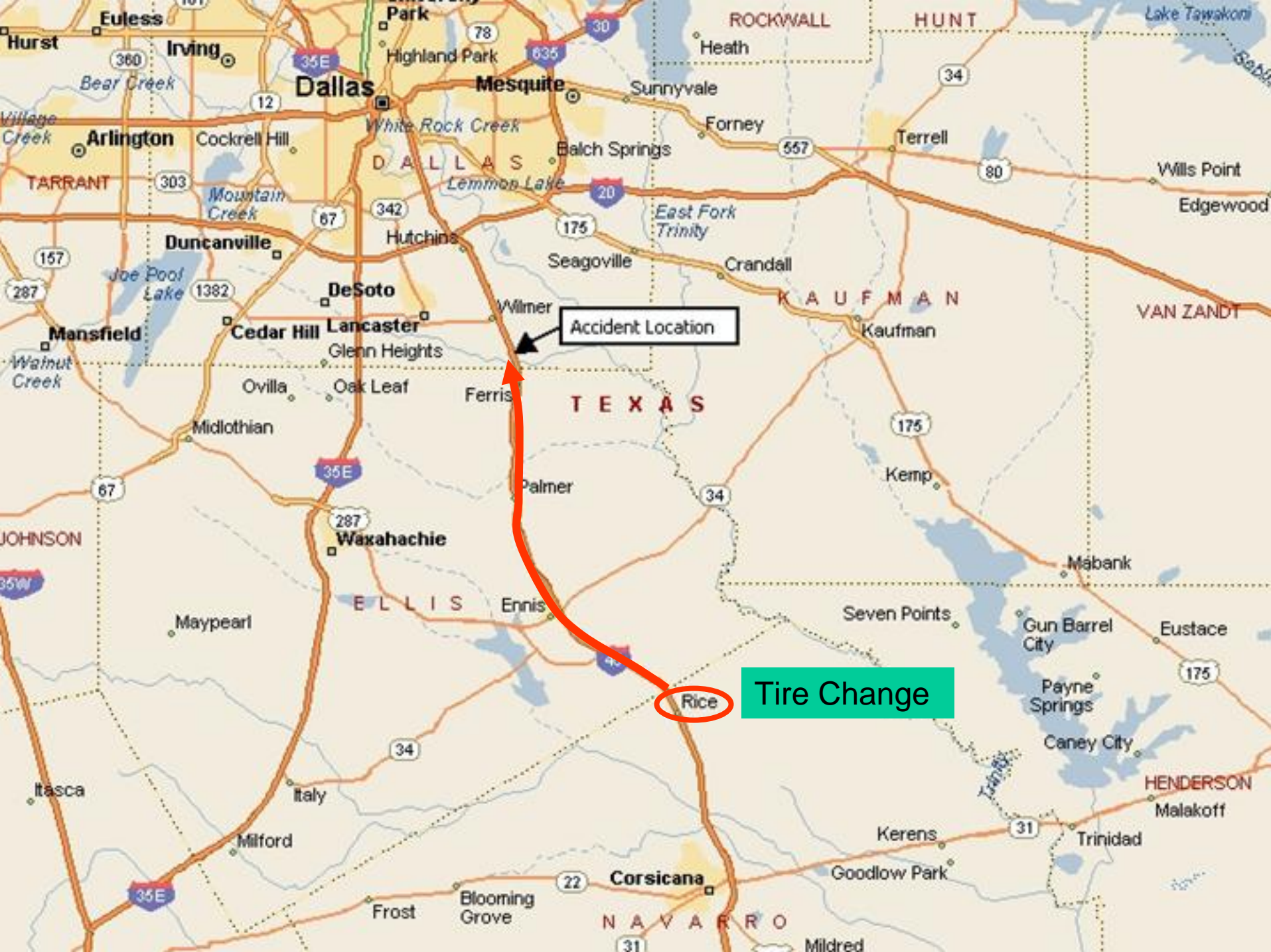
HOUSTON











Accident Location

Tire Change

Rice

TEXAS





EXIT
269
Mars
Rd ↗

EXIT
30
M.A.H.

EXIT
30
M.A.H.

EXIT
269
Mars
Rd ↗

EXIT
269
Mars
Rd ↗

EXIT
269
Mars
Rd ↗

EXIT
269
Mars
Rd ↗

EXIT
269
Mars
Rd ↗

EXIT
30
M.A.H.



Burned grass on right shoulder



Source: KTVT News

00:10



00:23



00:27



00:50



01:33



02:34



05:17



06:30





Source: Dallas County Sheriff's Dept.





1527

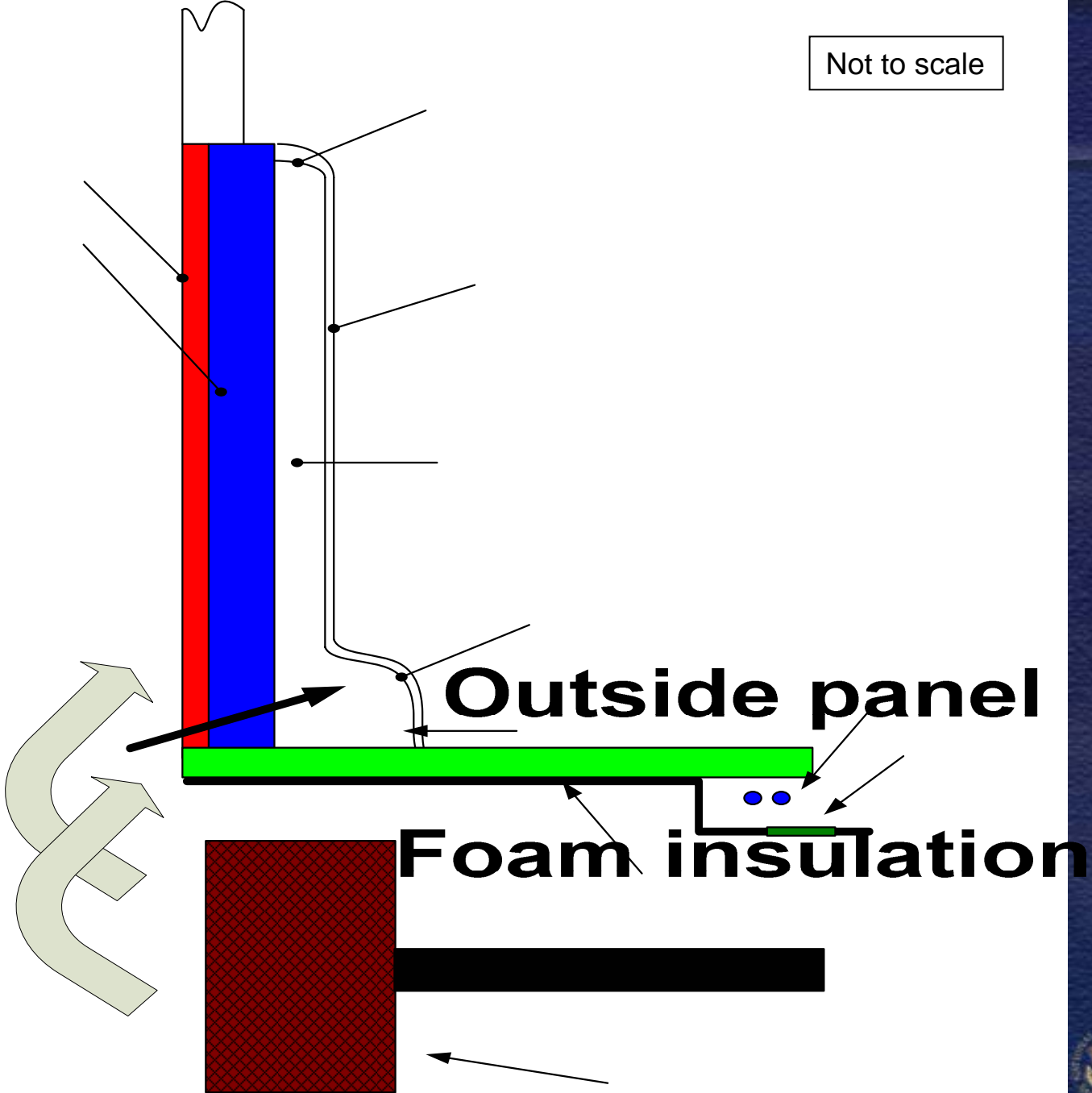






91

Not to scale





Damaged oxygen cylinders from the passenger compartment



Oxygen cylinders from the luggage compartment

Oxygen Cylinders

- 7 relatively empty cylinders retrieved from luggage bay
 - Little fire damage
- 11 cylinders retrieved from passenger compartment
 - Extensive damage and all released oxygen
- The pressure relief valves actuate at 260 degrees F



INSTRUCTIONS
PULL RING PIN.
AIM FROM
5 FEET BACK.
PRESS AND
SWEEP

BADGER

Wilmer, Texas, Motorcoach Fire

- Evacuation from Hurricane Rita
 - September 23, 2005
 - 1998 MCI motorcoach
 - Wheel fire
 - 23 elderly passenger fatalities

Other Bus Fires

- Charles Town, West Virginia
 - July 15, 2003
 - 1989 MCI motorcoach
 - Brake fire
 - 3 senior citizens injured, 2 while exiting windows



Source: James E. Knott



Source: James E. Knott

Other Bus Fires

- Meriden, Connecticut
 - August 16, 2005
 - 2002 Van Hool motorcoach with 45 passengers
 - Right rear wheel fire
 - Non-English-speaking driver
 - No injuries



Source: Meriden, CT Fire Dept.

Other Bus Fires

- Bass River, New Jersey
 - October 23, 2005
 - 1998 Dina Motorcoach with 40 passengers
 - Left rear tag axle tire fire
 - No injuries



Other Bus Fires

- Banning, California
 - December 6, 2005
 - 2001 Van Hool motorcoach with 61 passengers
 - Fire in rear of vehicle
 - No injuries



Source: California Highway Patrol

Other Bus Fires

- Lampasas, Texas
 - October 4, 2005
 - School bus
 - Engine fire
 - Ninth grade volleyball team
 - No injuries



INTERNATIONAL

SCHOOL BUS

Other Bus Fires

- Wilsonville, Oregon
 - May 13, 2006
 - 1998 Prevost motorcoach transporting a high school band
 - Right rear tag axle tire fire
 - No injuries



NTSB