

WAC 468-550-070 Notifying of, investigating, and reporting accidents and unacceptable hazardous conditions.

(1) Each RFGPTS shall notify the department per the requirements set forth in the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard within two hours of the occurrence of any reportable accident.

(2) Each RFGPTS shall notify the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of reportable hazards, incidents, and accidents per the requirements of 49 C.F.R. 674.33.

(3) Each RFGPTS shall notify the department per the requirements set forth in the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard within two hours of the discovery of any unacceptable hazardous condition.

(4) Each RFGPTS shall notify the department of all other reportable hazards or incidents within the reporting timelines set forth in the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard.

(5) Each RFGPTS shall investigate all reportable accidents and unacceptable hazardous conditions. The RFGPTS may use its own staff or a contractor to conduct its investigation and shall designate a staff person to be responsible for submitting written investigation reports and findings to the department, on a department form, within forty-five calendar days after the reportable accident or unacceptable hazardous condition was discovered. This report shall identify the causal factors contributing to the occurrence and contain a corrective action plan with an implementation schedule to prevent a recurrence of the accident, or to mitigate the unacceptable hazardous condition.

(a) In the event that the RFGPTS does not have all of the data and analysis necessary to complete a final report, the RFGPTS must submit a draft within forty-five days that documents progress to date.

(b) Under no circumstance may the final report be submitted more than four months from the date of the incident.

(c) The department shall review the RFGPTS final investigation report, corrective action plan, and accompanying implementation schedule to ensure that it meets the goal of preventing and mitigating a recurrence of the reportable accident or unacceptable hazardous condition.

(d) In the event that the department does not concur with the findings of the RFGPTS investigation, the corrective action plan, or the implementation schedule, the department shall take the following actions:

(i) Within forty-five calendar days of receipt of the investigation report, confer with the RFGPTS about its preliminary review findings and explain what needs to be changed;

(ii) If the RFGPTS agrees with the department's recommendations, then the RFGPTS shall amend its report to the department in writing within ten calendar days. This then follows the normal WSDOT approval process;

(iii) If the RFGPTS does not agree with the department's recommendations, then it must submit its concerns and issues in writing within ten days to the department. The department shall submit the plan to the FTA transit safety oversight office for their review. The FTA shall make the final determination.

(6) The department has authority to perform separate, independent investigations of reportable accidents or unacceptable hazardous conditions at its own discretion.

(a) WSDOT at its discretion may choose to conduct an independent investigation of any accident meeting the thresholds specified in

WSDOT SSO program standard utilizing its own personnel or an authorized contractor.

(b) WSDOT may initiate its own investigation at any time prior to adopting the RTA's accident investigation report. WSDOT will inform the RTA of its intention to conduct an independent investigation in advance of beginning investigation activities on RTA facilities and infrastructure or involving interviews with RTA personnel. WSDOT will advise the RTA of the personnel who will be conducting the independent investigation, and provide a preliminary schedule of the investigation process prior to the start of investigation activities.

(c) All WSDOT authorized accident investigation personnel, including consultants hired for the purpose of conducting an accident investigation, are granted authority under the state safety oversight program to do all things reasonable and necessary to conduct their investigation including, but not limited to, entering RTA facilities, accident scenes, and other relevant locations; examining the property, vehicles, and records of the RTA; interviewing RTA personnel; and evaluating records, materials, data, analysis, and other information which is pertinent to the investigation. It is expected that the RTA will provide the WSDOT investigation team the resources and information necessary to conduct the investigation in an effective and efficient fashion.

(7) All reportable accidents and hazards must be included in an annual safety program summary report to the department per WAC 468-550-100.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 81.104.115, 49 U.S.C. § 5329 and 49 C.F.R. Part 674. WSR 18-13-031, § 468-550-070, filed 6/11/18, effective 6/11/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 81.104.115. WSR 08-15-078, § 468-550-070, filed 7/15/08, effective 8/15/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 81.104.115(5). WSR 02-13-004, § 468-550-070, filed 6/6/02, effective 7/7/02. Statutory Authority: 1999 c 202 § 7. WSR 99-18-059 (Order 193), § 468-550-070, filed 8/30/99, effective 9/30/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.06.120. WSR 98-19-052, § 468-550-070, filed 9/15/98, effective 10/16/98.]