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You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEylcTau86I>

Guardrail Impales Truck; Driver Not Hurt

UPDATE: The Tennessee Department of Transportation confirmed to NewsChannel9 Thursday that a guard rail at the site of a shocking wreck is indeed a type now banned in Tennessee and more than a dozen other states.

TDOT Spokesperson Jennifer Flynn said the Trinity ET-Plus guardrail end terminal was the product used on Highway 58 in Hamilton County at the site of last Friday's crash.

The same product was involved in several deadly crashes nationwide. Last week, TDOT pulled ET-PLUS from its list of approved guardrails to install. Flynn said they are waiting on the Federal Highway Administration to decide how safe it really is.

"We'll continue to work with them, and they've asked for further testing on this product. All of the state Departments of Transportation are in the same situation that we're in," said Flynn.

About 18 states so far have banned installing the ET-PLUS guardrail. TDOT said public safety is priority, but it will not remove those particular guardrails unless test results deem it unsafe.

TDOT says it will monitor those results closely. The FHWA has ordered Trinity Industries to do new crash testing on the ET-Plus guardrail to make sure it performs the way it should.

A guardrail crash is raising eyebrows for drivers around Hamilton County.

Last Friday, a crash reports stated a Harrison man drove his Nissan pickup truck northbound on Highway 58 when he had a diabetic, medical emergency, went off the road and hit a guardrail. The guardrail impaled the truck through the passenger side and went straight out the back, but the driver is unharmed.

Chattanooga drivers told NewsChannel9's Briona Arradondo on Wednesday that they were shocked to see the images of the crash.

"Well what I think is God spared his life," said Linda Taylor, of Chattanooga.

Danny Baker said he drives a pickup truck because he believes the vehicles are safer.

"The guardrail, I mean, you almost think there had to be something that was loose, or if it was already bent out or something for it to be able to do that," said Baker.

Jennifer Flynn, a spokesperson with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, said questions remain.

"Each crash is unique, and there could have been extenuating circumstances. We don't know what angle the gentleman hit the guardrail, how fast he was going, what else was going on out there," said Flynn.

TDOT maintains state highway guardrails, and the galvanized steel installed is supposed to prevent potentially serious crashes.

"Our traffic engineers look and see where the best places are, if it's a bad curve, if there's a place where we have

lane departures. That might be a location where guardrail is placed," said Flynn, who said the state uses contractors to install the guardrail systems.

The barriers used along Tennessee roadways come from a federally approved list, and Flynn said officials removed a controversial product last week that was involved in deadly crashes.

Eighteen states including Tennessee are no longer installing the Trinity Industries ET-PLUS guardrail system. In a study obtained by ABC News, it showed deadly guardrail crashes were four times more likely to involve that product.

While it is unclear what type of guardrail was installed in Harrison, people told NewsChannel9 that they want one less thing to worry about when they drive down the road.

"I think it's scary. I know it's possible because there are a lot of things that you can run into, things that can fall on you," said Katrina Smith, of Chattanooga. "For goodness sakes, you can be driving down the road and one of those lights falls down on you. I mean, what do you do?"

The driver involved in that crash didn't want to talk on camera, but he told NewsChannel9 he is grateful he wasn't hurt.

TDOT is reviewing the Trinity ET-PLUS guardrails that are already in place statewide along with the Federal Highway Administration, and it will wait to see what results come from its testing before a decision is made whether to remove the guardrails from the roadways. But any workers replacing guardrails in Tennessee will not use that product, Flynn said.

However, Virginia is the first state with plans to physically remove those guardrails from its highways.

By Briona Arradondo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEylcTau86I>







10/31/2014



Master Record Number	100662726
Type of Crash: Injury-Incapacitating	
Approved By	1500

Tennessee Electronic Traffic Crash Report

Incident Information

Date of Crash 10/31/2014	Day of Crash Friday	Local Agency Number 0330000		Reporting Agency Name Hamilton County Sheriff's Office		Agency Tracking Number 14-038973
Time of Crash 17:46	Time Notified 17:46	Time Arrived 17:52	County Hamilton		City	
Total 1	Total 1	Total 0	Total 0	Total 1	Total 0	
Vehicles		Occupants	Non-Occupants	Killed	Injured	Un-Injured
Hit and Run N	Solved?	Police Pursuit N	School Bus Involved? No	Photos Taken? Y	By Police	Photographer Name J. MAKEMSON
Area Residential		Interchange Related? N	Intersect Type Not at Intersection			
Block Number 8100	Roadway Number	Roadway Name STATE HWY 58			Suffix	
Est Distance 392.00	Distance Type Feet	Direction West	From Highway Number/Intersection RAMSEY TOWN RD	Suffix	Intersect Number	Mile Marker 0.00
Roadway Local ID			Intersect Local ID			
Relation to Junction Non-Junction			Relation to Roadway Roadside-Right		Route Signing State Route	
Work Zone None			Construction Zone			
Construction Location			Workers Present			
First Harmful Event Guard Rail End			Trafficway Type Trafficway-OPEN			
Weather Conditions Rain		Light Conditions Daylight	Latitude 35.159230	Longitude -85.096310	Rail Crossing ID	
Manner of Collision Not Collision with Motor Vehicle in Transport						
1st Collision Factor		2nd Collision Factor		3rd Collision Factor		

Investigating Officer Details

Investigation Complete Y	Rank INV.	First Name TODD	Middle Initial	Last Name COOK	Suffix
Badge Number 1500	District/Zone EAST 4	Car Number TRAFFIC 2	Report Date 10/31/2014		

Vehicle Number 1	No. of Occupants 1	Driver Presence Driver Operated
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Driver Information

First Name WILLIAM	Middle Initial R.	Last Name MULLINS	Suffix	Date of Birth	Age 50
Address Line 1		Address Line 2	City	State TN	Zip Code
Phone 1	Phone 2	Phone 3	Race Caucasian/M	Ethnicity Non-Hispanic	Gender M
Safety Equipment Shoulder And Lap Belt Used					
Drivers License Number	License State TN	Expiration Date	License Class DM	License Status Valid	Seat Position Front Seat-Left Side
Endorsements 1 None	Complied With?	Endorsements 2	Complied With?	Endorsements 3	Complied With?
Restrictions 1 None	Complied With?	Restrictions 2	Complied With?	Restrictions 3	Complied With?
Ejected Not Ejected	Ejection Path			Trapped/Extricated Not Trapped	
Injury Code Incapacitating	Medical Transport EMS-Ground	Ambulance/Hospital MEMORIAL HOSPITAL			

Driver Conditions and Actions

Hit and Run? No Hit And Run	Driver/Vehicle Maneuver Going Straight	Distraction Unknown
Driver's 1st Condition Other	Driver's 2nd Condition	Driver's 3rd Condition
Driver's 1st Action Other	Driver's 2nd Action	
Driver's 3rd Action	Driver's 4th Action	

Alcohol and Drugs

Presence of Alcohol No	Determination Method	Alcohol Test Status Test Not Given			
1st Alcohol Test Type	1st Alcohol Test Result	2nd Alcohol Test Type	2nd Alcohol Test Result		
Presence of Drugs No	Determination Method	Drug Test Status Test Not Given			
1st Drug Test Type	1st Drug Test Result	2nd Drug Test Type	2nd Drug Test Result	3rd Drug Test Type	3rd Drug Test Result

Driver Violations

1st Violation	1st Violation Category	1st Violation Description	1st Violation Statute
2nd Violation	2nd Violation Category	2nd Violation Description	2nd Violation Statute
3rd Violation	3rd Violation Category	3rd Violation Description	3rd Violation Statute
4th Violation	4th Violation Category	4th Violation Description	4th Violation Statute
5th Violation	5th Violation Category	5th Violation Description	5th Violation Statute

Vehicle Information

Owner Same as Driver? Y	Owner First Name	Owner Middle Name	Owner Last Name	Owner Suffix
Street 1	Street 2	City	State TN	Zip Code
Phone Number 2	Phone Number 3	Vehicle Year 2004	Vehicle Make NISS	Vehicle Model CC2
VIN	License Plate Number	State Tennessee	Exp Year	Body Code Compact Pickup
HAZMAT? N	FMCSA Reportable? N	Bus Use Not Used As School Bus	Unit Type Motor Vehicle In-Transport	
Gross Weight 10000 or Less-No Haz-8 Or Less			Vehicle Configuration	
Vehicle Operation Type Personally Owned/Used			Cargo Body Type	
1st Factor Unknown		2nd Factor		3rd Factor
Insurance 1	Insurance 1 Type Vehicle	Insurance 1 Carrier	Insurance 1 Start Date	Insurance 1 End Date
Insurance 2	Insurance 2 Type	Insurance 2 Carrier	Insurance 2 Start Date	Insurance 2 End Date
Insurance 3	Insurance 3 Type	Insurance 3 Carrier	Insurance 3 Start Date	Insurance 3 End Date

Vehicle Damage and Roadway Characteristics

Most Harmful Event Guard Rail End		Emergency Use? N	Over Underride No Underride-Override	Fire in Vehicle? N
Events 1 Ran Off Road-Right		Events 2 Guard Rail End		Events 3
Events 4		Events 5		Events 6
Point of First Impact Front End	Extent of Damage Disabling Damage		Officer Damage Estimate Greater Than 400 Dollars	
Areas of Vehicle Damage Other				
Vehicle Special Use No Special Use	Towed? Towed Due To Vehicle Damage	Towed Where? S AND H TOWING	1st Trailer	1st Trailer Licence Plate Information
2nd Trailer		2nd Trailer Licence Plate Information	3rd Trailer	3rd Trailer Licence Plate Information
Travel Direction North	Traveling On HIGHWAY 58			
Trafficway Flow Two-Way Divided Without Traffic Barrier		Roadway Surface Type Asphalt	Number of Travel Lanes Four Lanes	
Trafficway Hazards None				
Traffic Control Devices No Control		Traffic Control Device Functioning No Controls		Roadway Route Signing State Route
Roadway Surface Conditions Wet		Roadway Character Alignment Straight		Roadway Character Profile Level
Speed Limit 55	Access Control No Control			

Commercial Carrier Information

US DOT	Carrier Name		Carrier Type		ICC MC	TN DOS
Address Line 1		Address Line 2		City	State	Zip Code
1st Hazardous Materials		HAZMAT Class	Placard?	Placard #	Released?	Hazardous Materials Released
2nd Hazardous Materials		HAZMAT Class	Placard?	Placard #	Released?	Hazardous Materials Released
3rd Hazardous Materials		HAZMAT Class	Placard?	Placard #	Released?	Hazardous Materials Released

Property Owner Information

Other Property Damages State Property-Over 400		Property Description APPROX. 100 FEET OF GUARDRAIL			
First Name TENNESSEE	Middle Name DEPT. OF	Last Name TRANSPORTATION		Suffix	
Address Line 1 4005 CROMWELL ROAD		Address Line 2		City Chattanooga	State TN
Phone 1 4238923430		Phone 2		Phone 3	
				Zip 37421	

Narrative

VEHICLE 1 WAS GOING NORTH ON HIGHWAY 58 AND WENT OFF THE ROAD ON THE RIGHT SIDE, VEHICLE 1 DROVE OVER THE SHOULDER IN TO A GRASS AREA THEN RAN OVER THE EDGE OF A PRIVATE DRIVE. VEHICLE 1 CONTINUED UNTIL HITTING THE END OF A GUARDRAIL, THE GUARDRAIL IMPALED VEHICLE1 AROUND THE RIGHT FRONT TIRE AND WENT ALL THE THROUGH THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT THEN CAME OUT OF THE BACK OF THE CAB. THIS WAS DUE TO DRIVER 1 HAVING A DIABETIC EMERGENCY, DRIVER 1 BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL WAS CHECKED AT THE SCENE BY EMS AND IT WAS 26.

Not To Scale

