



Prison Bus Crashes Near Odessa, Strikes Train, Multiple Fatalities Reported

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Deadly bus/train collision near Odessa, image from permanbasin360.com

ECTOR COUNTY, TX -- A bus transporting prisoners from Abilene to El Paso crashed off Interstate 20 and collided with a train Wednesday morning, resulting in multiple fatalities just outside of Odessa.

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According to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, two correctional officers and eight prisoners died. One correctional officer and four prisoners were transported to Medical Center Hospital in Odessa.

Medical Center Hospital tells PermianBasin360.com that four patients are in critical condition and one person was in serious condition. The correctional officer was being transported to University Medical Center in Lubbock.



Deadly bus/train collision near Odessa, image from permianbasin360.com

The bus was transporting prisoners from Middleton Unit in Abilene to the Sanchez Unit in El Paso when the accident occurred. Preliminary information is the vehicle left the roadway near mile marker 100 on Interstate 20 and collided with a train, according to the TDCJ. Conditions along that stretch of I-20 were described as icy at the time of the collision. The National Transportation Safety Board said it would investigate.

“It’s with a heavy heart that we mourn the loss of those killed and injured this morning in a tragic accident. Their loved ones will be in our thoughts and prayers,” said Brad Livingston, Executive Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.



Image from PermianBasin360.com

Governor-Elect Greg Abbott and Lieutenant Governor-Elect Dan Patrick both released statements following the accident.

"My deepest sympathies go out to all who were impacted by the tragic Texas Department of Criminal Justice bus accident in Ector County today. Cecilia and I are praying for solace for the families of those whose lives were lost and for a full recovery for those who sustained injuries," Abbot said.



Image from PermianBasin360.com

"I am deeply saddened by the news that two correctional guards died, along with eight inmates, in connection with a tragic accident in West Texas on Interstate 20 early this morning. I extend my sincere sympathies to the families of the correctional officers involved," Patrick said.



"Their dedication and service to the State of Texas will be missed and my prayers also go out to the entire staff of TDCJ and the offenders' families for their loss," Patrick went on to say.

(PermianBasin360.com contributed to this report)

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