## DETERMINING WHEN A BUS ACCIDENT REQUIRES FTA DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING

First, determine if the event meets the FTA's definition of an accident:

Was the accident a result of the **operation** of a public transportation vehicle in which any of the following occurred:



A loss of human life at the scene?

Someone received immediate medical care away from the scene? Transport for care may be by any means.



One or more vehicles sustained disabling damage that **required** a tow? Towing may be by any means.



If you've answered yes to any of the questions in #1, the FTA definition of an accident was met. Now determine if FTA testing is authorized:

**Fatal Accident:** Testing is required if there was a loss of human life at the scene. All surviving employees who were operating the vehicle at the time of the accident must be tested.

**Non-fatal accident:** Testing is authorized when the operator's actions cannot be completely discounted as a contributing factor. The decision must be based on the best information available to you at the time.

If authorized, perform FTA drug and alcohol tests as soon as practicable following the accident.

The testing clock starts at the time of the accident. If the alcohol test is delayed beyond the first 2 hours, document the reason and continue to document every two hours until the test is performed. Cease attempts to perform the alcohol test after 8 hours and attempts to drug test after 32 hours.

Source: 49 CFR Part 655.4 & 655.44