National Transportation Safety Board

Working with NTSB in Wake of an Accident

Are you prepared?

Robert L. Sumwalt

NTSB is an independent federal agency, charged by Congress to investigate transportation accidents, determine probable cause, and issue safety recommendations.

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Our greatest virtues:

Independence

Credibility

The Board

Mark Rosekind

Chris Hart

Debbie Hersman

Robert Sumwalt

Earl Weener

Our biggest strength:

Our experienced staff

sociation, September 16, 2013

NTSB

Our mission:

Prevent Accidents

Reduce Injuries

Save Lives

Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Field Investigation

Limited Investigation

Go-Team Investigation

The million dollar question?

- Are you prepared to interface with NTSB if there is an accident involving your organization?

  - Do you understand the party system?
  - Who will be your party coordinator?
  - Are you familiar with NTSB's rules and practices?

Take home points

1. Become a party member
2. Make party submission
3. Meet with Board Members before Board Member

The Party Process

The NTSB designates parties to the investigation to those organizations that can provide technical expertise.

Advantages of the Party System

- Parties provide technical expertise
- Immediate corrective actions
- Checks and balances and transparency

Who are parties?

Typically, parties include:

- **FAA (by law)**
- **Operator**
- **Airframe manufacturer**
- **Engine manufacturer**
- **Major component manufacturer**
- **Pilot, ATC, maintenance and flight attendant union representatives**
- **Airport Authorities**

Keeping out of trouble

- Do not speculate on the cause of an accident with the press
- Do not withhold information from the NTSB
- Do not conduct a parallel investigation
- Always plan for and devote the proper resources to the investigation

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NTSB News

Investigator in Charge Robert Accetta briefs the media about the status of the investigation into the cause of the Feb. 3 fatal bus crash near San Bernardino, California.

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NTSB
An Independent United States Federal Government Agency

The NTSB is an independent federal

Photo of the Week

News @ NTSB

NTSB is investigating an accident involving a Bell 206 helicopter that crashed near Acton, CA today.
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Video of today's 42-minute media briefing on the JAL B-787 battery

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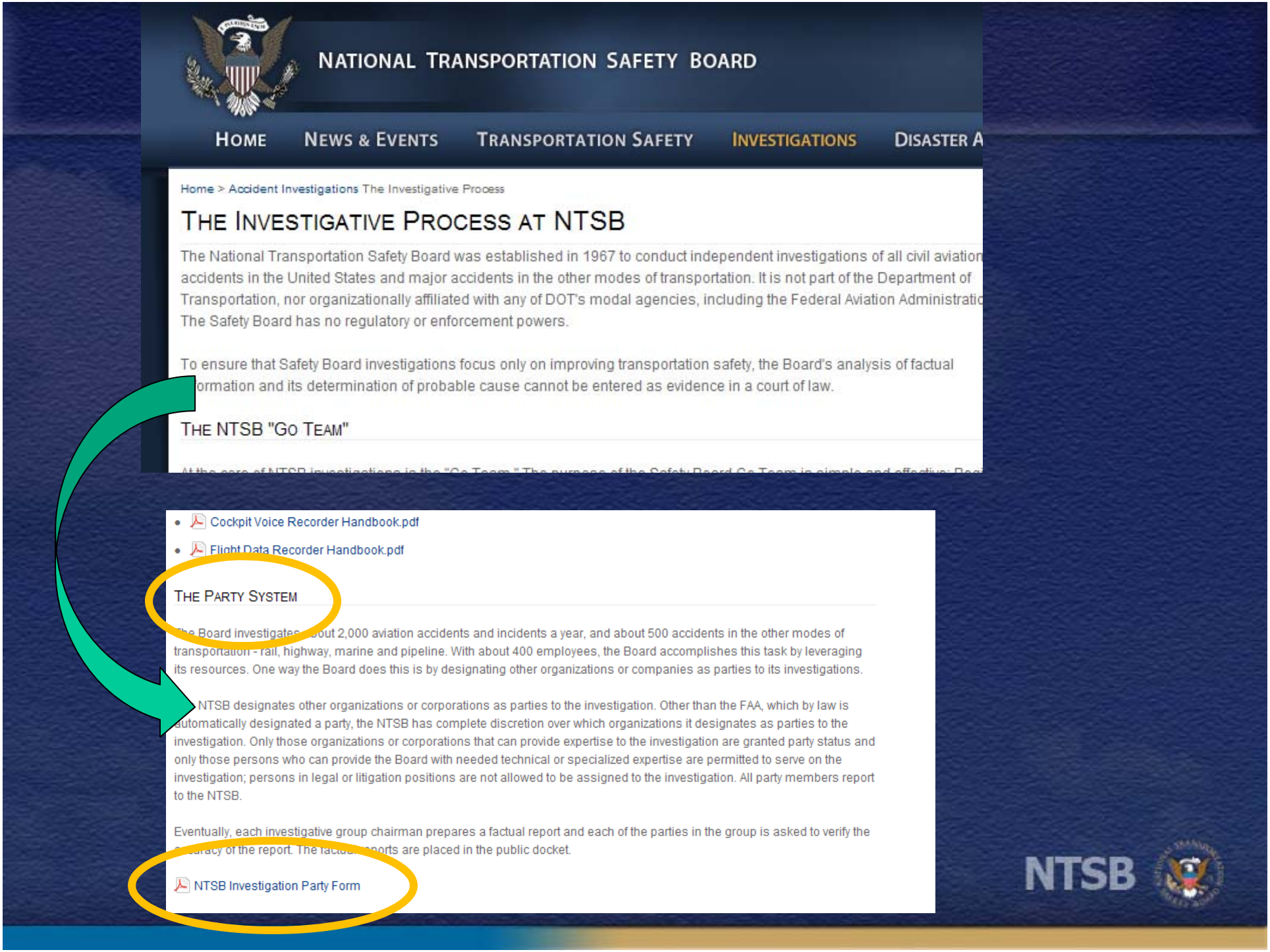
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THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS AT NTSB
The National Transportation Safety Board was established in 1967 to conduct independent investigations of all civil aviation accidents in the United States and major accidents in the other modes of transportation. It is not part of the Department of Transportation, nor organizationally affiliated with any of DOT's modal agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administratio The Safety Board has no regulatory or enforcement powers.
To ensure that Safety Board investigations focus only on improving transportation safety, the Board's analysis of factual formation and its determination of probable cause cannot be entered as evidence in a court of law.
THE NTSB "GO TEAM"
Cockpit Voice Recorder Handbook.pdf
Flight Data Recorder Handbook.pdf
THE PARTY SYSTEM
The Board investigates bout 2,000 aviation accidents and incidents a year, and about 500 accidents in the other modes of transportation - rail, highway, marine and pipeline. With about 400 employees, the Board accomplishes this task by leveraging its resources. One way the Board does this is by designating other organizations or companies as parties to its investigations.
NTSB designates other organizations or corporations as parties to the investigation. Other than the FAA, which by law is automatically designated a party, the NTSB has complete discretion over which organizations it designates as parties to the investigation. Only those organizations or corporations that can provide expertise to the investigation are granted party status and only those persons who can provide the Board with needed technical or specialized expertise are permitted to serve on the investigation; persons in legal or litigation positions are not allowed to be assigned to the investigation. All party members report to the NTSB.
Eventually, each investigative group chairman prepares a factual report and each of the parties in the group is asked to verify the curacy of the report. The factual reports are placed in the public docket.
NTSB Investigation Party Form
NTSB

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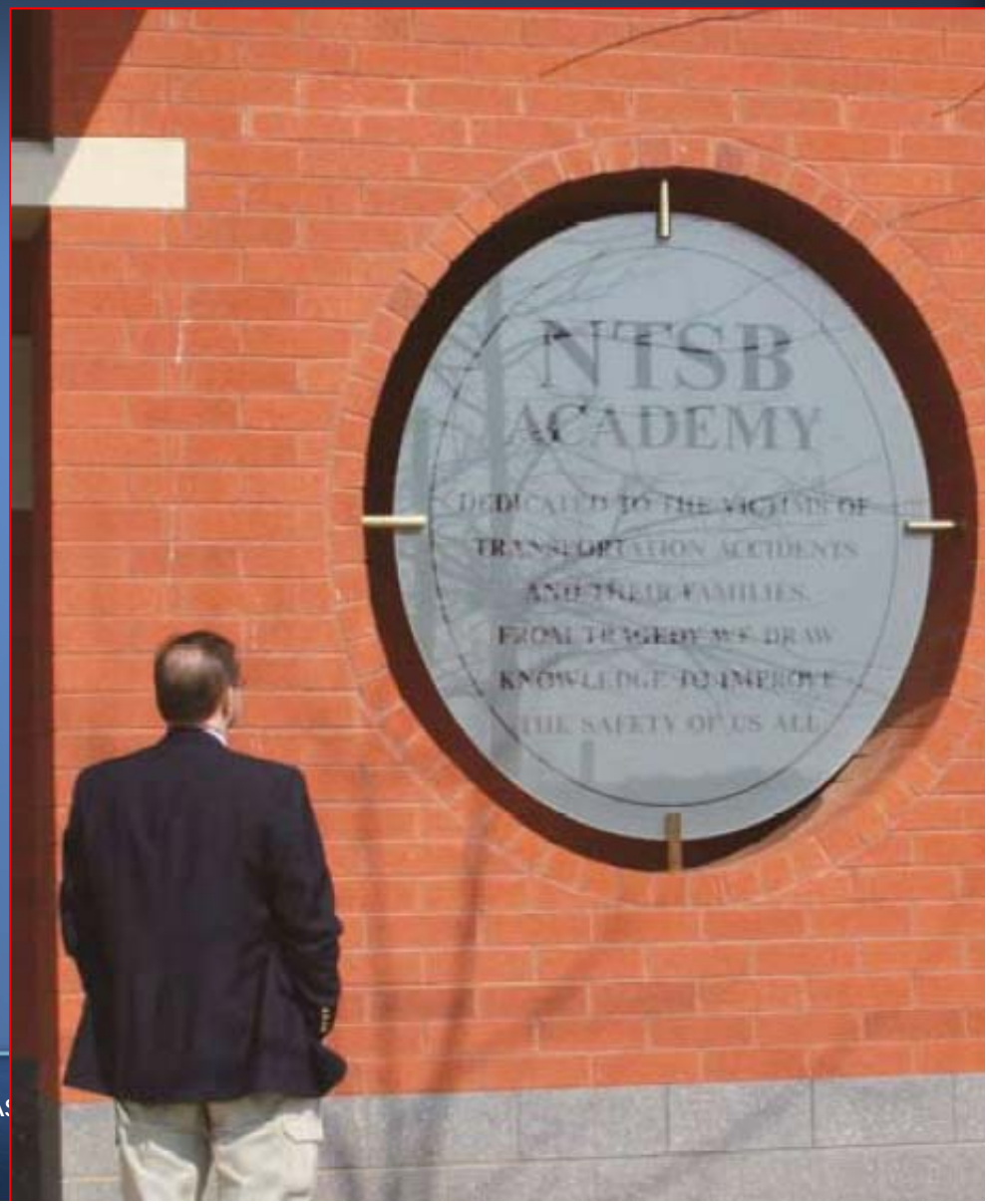
- “From tragedy we draw knowledge to improve the safety of us all.”



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