

# How To Be an Effective Part of an Accident Investigation

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# Presenters



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# National Transportation Safety Board v. Federal Aviation Administration

- Who investigates what
- National Transportation Safety Board
  - 49 U.S.C. § 1111
  - Role of Board Members v. Staff
- Federal Aviation Administration



# Structure of NTSB Accident Investigations

- Board Member
- Investigator in Charge
- Parties
- Group Chairman
- Groups
- Public Affairs
- Family Assistance



# The Party System

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Entities which can make technical contributions to investigation
  - Airline/operators
  - Airframe manufacturers
  - Engine manufacturers
  - Avionics manufacturers
  - Unions
- Party Coordinators
- Families/passengers...No!



# Selecting Party Participants

- Groups
  - Operations
  - Maintenance
  - Systems
  - Human/Survival Factors
  - Air Traffic
  - Weather
  - CVR/FDR
- Party Coordinators
  - Role-Counterpart of NTSB IIC
  - Qualifications
- Group Participants
  - Role
  - Qualifications



# Checklists

- Accident Response
- Document Retention/Protection
- Emergency Response Handbooks



# Group Notes/Group Factual Reports

- Group Notes
  - What are they
  - Who prepares them
  - How they are used
  - Signing them
  - What happens to them
- Group Chairmen Reports
  - What are they
  - What is the process for their preparation
  - Review/approval
  - Release





# When Things Go Wrong

- Media reports incorrect information
- Board member gives briefing which has incorrect/misleading information
- Another party releases information



# Managing Documents

- Document checklist
- Copies v. originals
- One person responsible
- Document logs
- Marking as confidential



# What To Do When Things Go Wrong

- IIC
- Member
- NTSB public affairs
- Press release: can you or can't you



# Safety Issues That Arise During An Investigation

- What happens when you spot a safety issue?
- Who can you tell?
- What is the process?

