



**National
Transportation
Safety Board**

Improving Safety through Accident Investigation



Robert L. Sumwalt, III



- NTSB is an independent federal agency
 - investigate transportation accidents
 - determine probable cause
 - issue safety recommendations



Facilities

- Headquartered in Washington, DC
- 4 Regional Offices
- NTSB Training Center





Our greatest virtues:
Independence
Credibility

The Board



Earl Weener



Bella Dinh-Zarr
Vice Chairman



Chris Hart
Chairman



Robert Sumwalt





NTSB Aviation Accident Investigation Involvement: 2015

Domestic

- 1209 GA accidents
 - 222 fatal accidents
 - 376 fatalities

Foreign

- Approx. 200
(Annex 13 Accredited
Representatives)



Breaking News: A plane has crashed.



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NTSB Response Operations Center



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LAUNCH IN
PROGRESS

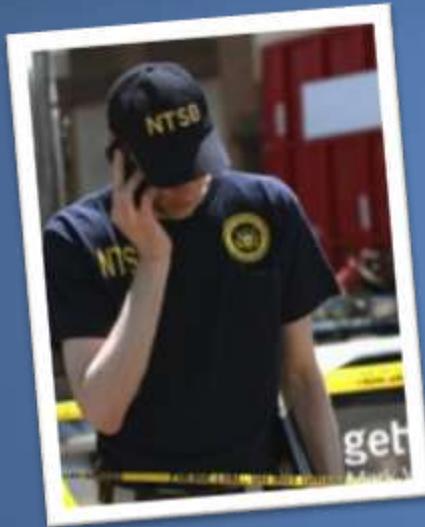


Determining the
level of response

Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Data Collection Accident ("C-Form")

- Non-injury GA accidents
- No airworthiness issues



Different Types of NTSB Investigations

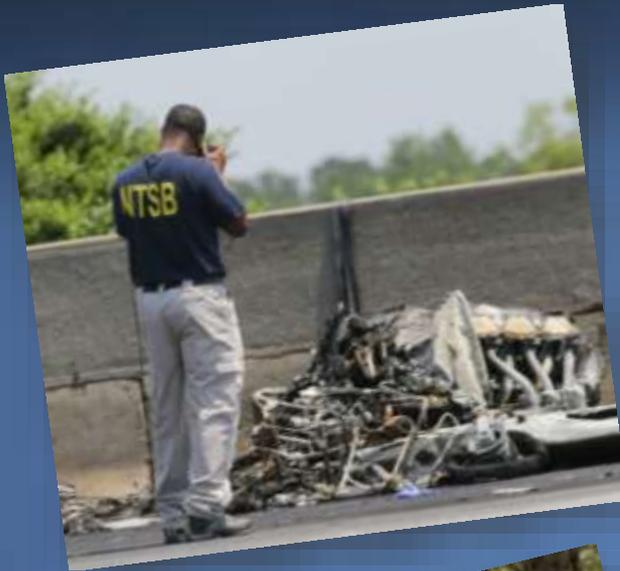


Limited Investigation



Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Regional Investigation



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Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Go-Team Investigation



Anatomy of an accident investigation

NOTIFICATION + 2 HOURS



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The Launch



Enroute



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Arrival on Scene



Boots on the Ground

Go-teams have specialists in:

- Powerplants
- Structures
- Systems
- Operations
- Human performance
- Survival factors
- Airworthiness
- ATC
- Transportation Disaster Assistance

- Meteorology
- Recorders





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The Hunt for ...



The “Black Boxes”





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Media Briefings



Family Briefings



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Meeting with Elected Officials



The Party Process

- The NTSB designates parties to the investigation to those organizations that can provide technical expertise.
- Typically parties may include:
 - FAA (by law)
 - Operator
 - Airframe and engine manufacturers
 - Major component manufacturers
 - Pilot, ATC, maintenance, and flight attendant union representatives
 - Airport authorities
 - First responders

Value of the Party System



- Parties provide technical expertise
- Parties provide checks and balances to the process of accident investigation
- Transparency
- Immediate corrective actions

Nightly Progress Meetings



Anatomy of an accident investigation

MONTH 3 - 4



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Investigative Hearing





Anatomy of an accident investigation

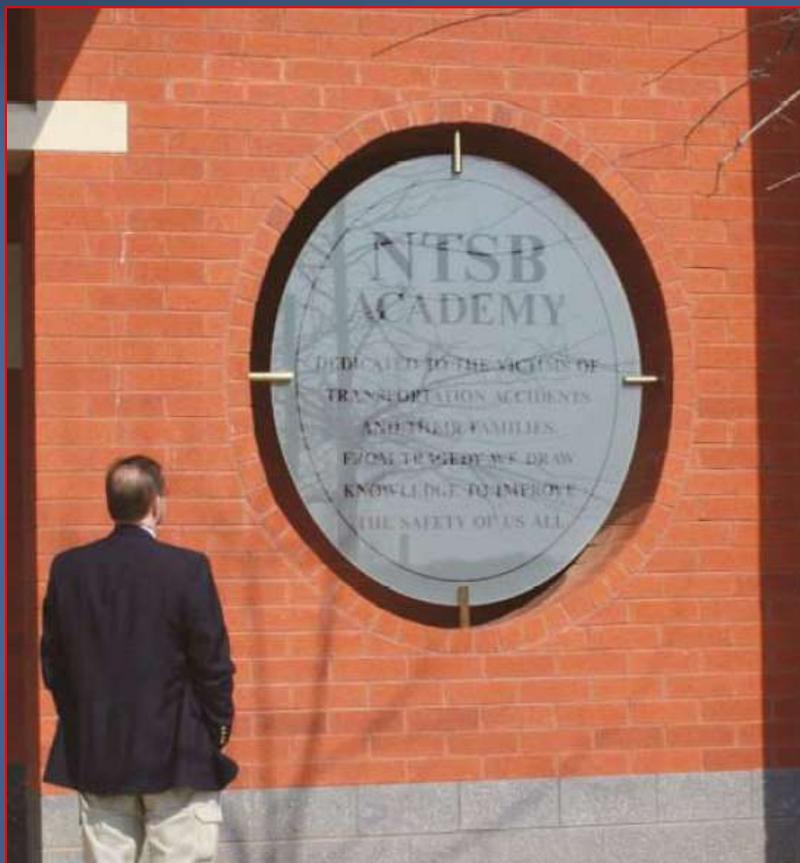
MONTH 12



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Board Meeting





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





National Transportation Safety Board