**Short-term Counseling & Referrals**

Short-term professional mental health support is available to survivors, family members, and friends in their local area free of charge through our partners, the American Red Cross. When requested or deemed appropriate, Red Cross can provide referrals for longer-term mental health services or support groups. Please contact the TDA Division for additional information.

**Victim Identification Process**

Victim recovery, identification, determination of cause and manner of death, and death certification are the responsibility of the medical examiner or coroner in the jurisdiction where the death occurred. Contact information for the medical examiner or coroner is available by contacting the TDA Division.

**Personal Effects**

The NTSB may take custody of personal effects like personal electronic devices or other items relevant to the investigation. Depending on condition, these items may be returned to the owner or a designated family member following the conclusion of the investigation. Personal effects not retained by the NTSB may be collected by the medical examiner or coroner, law enforcement, or another agency or organization involved in the response. The TDA Division can assist with inquiries about personal effects retained by the NTSB or provide contact information for other agencies or organizations that may have custody of personal effects.

**Accident Wreckage**

The NTSB has the authority to retain control of and manage access to the wreckage involved in the accident during the investigation. Inquiries regarding status of the wreckage under NTSB control may be directed to the TDA Division.
NTSB Accident Investigations

Overview

NTSB accident investigations often require 12 to 24 months to complete. This is due to the complexity of the factual information that must be collected and the importance of conducting a comprehensive analysis to determine its relevance to the cause of the accident.

During the investigation, the following reports are published on the NTSB website:

- The Preliminary Report provides a synopsis of factual information collected during the on-scene phase of the investigation. This report is typically available within a few weeks after the accident.
- The Accident Docket includes relevant information collected during the investigation and considered in the development of reports or briefs and determination of the probable cause. Examples of docket items may include accident photographs, maintenance records, and witness statements. The docket is released publicly when most of the relevant factual information is collected for the investigation or at its conclusion.
- The Final Report provides a summary of relevant factual information, analysis, findings, probable cause, and safety recommendations issued or reiterated as a result of the investigation; or an Accident Brief that consists of a short accident narrative, probable cause, and safety recommendations. Briefs are normally limited to factual information but may contain analysis.

The NTSB may issue Safety Recommendations at any time during the investigation to address a particular issue and specify how to correct the situation. Recommendations are issued to relevant stakeholders best able to address the issue.

The NTSB will work with relevant stakeholders to identify safety issues that can be promptly corrected through suggested solutions. These solutions can be implemented without having to issue formal safety recommendations.

The NTSB may also issue Safety Alerts designed to enhance the understanding of safety issues and offer suggested actions to mitigate them.

Party System

The NTSB has the authority to designate organizations, corporations, or agencies as parties to the investigation. Only representatives who can provide technical or specialized expertise are permitted to serve as party members and report directly to the NTSB.

 Parties are permitted to assist the NTSB with the collection of factual information but cannot participate in its analysis. The NTSB is solely responsible for analyzing factual information to determine its relevance to the probable cause of the accident.

Staying Informed

Survivors, families, and friends can contact the TDA Division directly regarding an NTSB investigation and to learn more about available resources. TDA Specialists work closely with the IIC to address questions regarding an investigation.

 Survivors, families, and friends are encouraged to use the NTSB website to access additional information about material provided in this brochure.

Contact Us

The TDA Division can be contacted by calling (800) 683-9369 or (202) 314-6185, or by email at assistance@ntsb.gov

NTSB website: www.ntsb.gov
TDA Division: www.ntsb.gov/tda