Office of Board Member Dinh-Zarr & Office of Marine Safety, Michael J. Kucharski
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American Institute of Marine Underwriters
New York, NY
Overview

• NTSB: who we are, our strengths and our unique role
• Most Wanted List
• Anatomy of a Marine Investigation
• VDRs
National Transportation Safety Board

- Independent federal agency
- Investigate transportation accidents
- Make safety recommendations
- Assist victims and their families
What We Do:
Investigate What Happened,
Why It Happened, and
Make Recommendations to Prevent It from Happening Again
What we ask of You

• Participation in Listening Sessions
• Support of Most Wanted List Items
Support NTSB Most Wanted List Items

- Eliminate Operator Distractions
- Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents
- Require Medical Fitness
- End Alcohol & Other Drug Impairment in Transportation
- Expand Recorder Use to Enhance Safety
Eliminate distractions
Reduce fatigue-related accidents
Require medical fitness
End alcohol and other drug impairment in transportation

NTSB
Expand recorder use to enhance safety
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation Overview

• Structure
• Fact finding & Launch
• Analysis
• Report (Draft) or Brief
• Board Meeting – Full Report (Final) Issued
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation Basic Structure

• Board Members
• Modal Offices
• Supporting Offices
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation
OMS Basic Structure

- OMS structure
- Management
- Investigators & Staff
- Duty Sections/Go Teams/Duty Officer
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation
Fact Finding - Prelude to the Launch

- ROC contact
- Discussions Internal and with USCG
- Launch
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation
Launch Commences

• Board Member
• IIC
• Group Chairmen
• Support Personnel from different offices
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation
Fact Finding - Groups

- Groups are usually formed for:
  - Nautical operations
  - Engineering operations
  - Survival Factors
  - Human Performance (Elements)
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation
Fact Finding - The Party System

Parties to the field investigation shall be limited to those persons, government agencies, companies, and associations whose employees, functions, activities, or products were involved in the accident and who can provide suitable qualified technical personnel to actively assist in the field investigation. 49 C.F.R. § 831.11
Fact Finding - The Party System

- Who are the parties?
- NTSB
- Coast Guard
- Owners/operators
- Technical experts (accident-dependent)
Now You See Me
Now You Don’t
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation
Fact Finding - The Party System

• The Parties:
• Nominate one person to be the party coordinator
• Share factual info obtained in the investigation
• Participate in fact gathering but not analysis
• Are invited to submit findings, recommendations, and suggested probable cause
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation
Fact Finding

- Fact Finding continues through:
  - Interviews
  - MBIs
  - Documents from the Parties
  - VSI
  - VDRs
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation Fact Finding
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation

Fact Finding – Release of Information

• Factual information released during on-scene phase and when significant findings are obtained

• Information, with a few exceptions, is made available to the public at
  • [www.ntsb.gov/Dockets/Marine](http://www.ntsb.gov/Dockets/Marine)
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation Analysis

- FEAs
- DAs
- STUDIES
- In depth look at causation
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation Report/Brief

- Marine Accident Brief (MAB)
- Safety Recommendation Report
- Marine Accident Report (MAR)
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation Report/Brief

- After factual reports have been reviewed by parties
- After analytical reports have been completed
- OMS drafts the final report/brief which includes facts, analysis, conclusions, probable cause, and recommendations
Anatomy of a Marine Investigation Board (Sunshine) Meeting

- Draft report is presented to the safety board in a public meeting at safety board headquarters
- Party submissions provided to Board with report
- Parties/Public invited, but may not participate in, the meeting
- If adopted, the report soon becomes a public document.
What we ask of You

- Participation in Listening Sessions
- Support of Most Wanted List Items
Expanded Recorder Use – VDRs on Ferries

- Support for the installation of VDRs on new build ferry vessels subject 46 CFR subchapters H & K
- Support for the installation of SVDRs on existing ferry vessels subject to 46 CFR subs H & K
- Support for development of US VDR standard for ferry vessels subject to 46 CFR sub T where technically feasible
Why Support the use of VDRs?

• To assist NTSB in increasing factual accuracy by obtaining solid objective evidence.
• Helps you/assured gain a better understanding of the facts
• Improved fleet safety through monitoring/self reporting and implementation of corrective action
• Use as a teaching tool for vessel personnel.
Questions

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