



# National Transportation Safety Board

## NTSB Overview *July 23, 2015*

Tracy Murrell

Director Office of Marine Safety



# Mission

## Independently Advancing Transportation Safety



***“From tragedy we draw knowledge to  
improve safety for us all”***

# Organization



**Aviation  
Safety**

**Highway  
Safety**

**Rail, Pipeline  
and Hazardous  
Material**

**Marine  
Safety**

**Research &  
Engineering**

**Administrative Support  
(MD, CIO, CFO, HR etc)**

# Marine Safety Organization

4 Managers

11 Marine Investigators

2 Human Factors Investigators

2 Writer/Editors

1 Administrative Officer



# Authority - Marine

## Major Marine Casualty

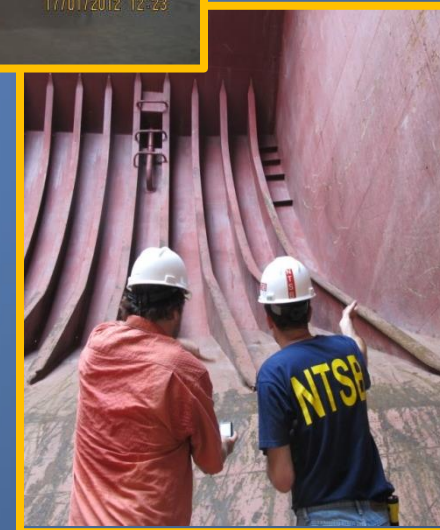
- Loss of vessel >100T
- Damage >\$500k
- 6 or more fatalities
- Serious threat to life, property or environment by hazmat



## Accidents of a recurring nature

Public – Non Public vessel; one fatality or >\$75k damage

Significant safety issues relating to USCG safety functions





# Dual authorities to investigate



# Authority - Marine

## NTSB – USCG MOU

- Signed Nov. 2008
- Determines lead for MMC's
- Ensures interagency communications, cooperation, coordination
- Ensures efficient marine investigation processes

Gather and share  
factual information  
No joint analysis  
Separate Reports



# Notification and Launch





# Go-team travels to scene



# Arrival on scene

## Organizational Meeting

- Designate parties and party coordinators
- Establish and organize groups

## Progress Meetings

- Summarize findings
- Info for briefings

## Family Briefings

## Press Briefings



# Who may be a Party?

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.



# Investigative groups

- Operations
- Engineering
- Survival
- Human performance
- Vehicle performance
- Medical/forensic
- Meteorology
- Recorders
- Fire/Materials





# Investigative process



## On-scene Investigation

Organizational Meeting

Groups and Parties

Progress meetings

Family Briefings

Media Briefings

Press Releases



## Preliminary report

Factual information



## Investigative Hearing

Fact finding

Depositions

Witnesses

Docket



## Board Meeting

Docket

Findings

Conclusions

Probable Cause

Safety

Recommendations



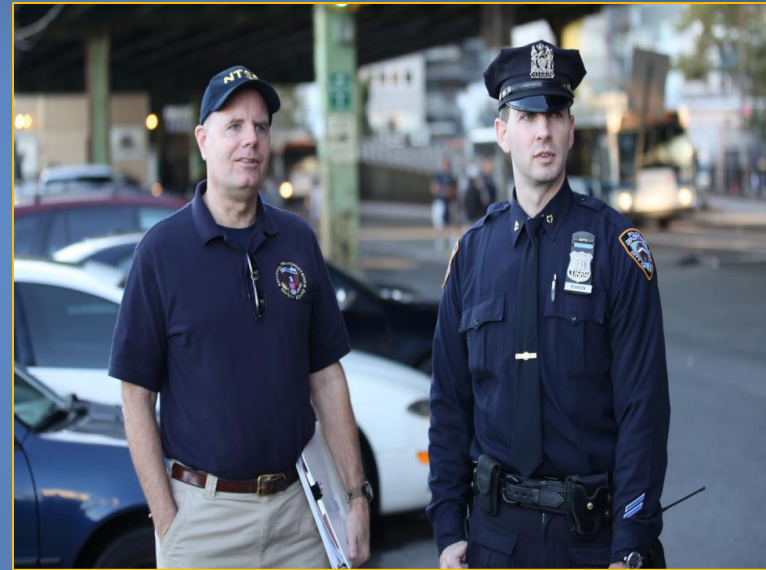
## Final Report

**Government in the Sunshine Act**



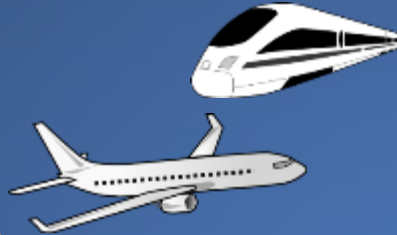
# Coordination with authorities

- Coast Guard
- First responders
- Federal agencies
- Port authorities
- Pilot commissions



## Air/Rail Passenger Carriers

Family Assistant Teams  
Logistics



Emergency Management Agencies  
First Responders  
Medical Examiner/Coroner  
Airport Authority  
Other Support Agencies

## Local/State

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**  
Communications  
Federal Protective Service



**Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**  
AM & PM Data Collection  
Morgue Operations



**Department of Defense (DOD)**  
AM & PM Data Collection



**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**  
Evidence & Wreckage Recovery  
Victim Assistance Support



**Department of State**  
Assistance to US Citizen overseas  
Foreign Citizen & Government  
interfacing



**American Red Cross**  
Disaster Mental Health Services  
Disaster Health Services  
Spiritual Care  
Child Care  
Mass Care



# NTSB and FBI

- MOU signed in 2005
- NTSB is lead until a crime is determined
- Procedure for transfer of case



# Available FBI assets

- Evidence response teams
- Technical Hazardous Response Unit





# Issues of interest

- Distraction
- Bridges and infrastructure
- Vessel traffic services (VTS)
- Passenger vessels, control mode awareness
- DUKW accident
- Cosco Busan, Overseas Reymar
- Summer Wind and Miss Susan
- Seastreak Wall Street



# Safety initiatives

- Special Investigative Reports
  - Parasailing
  - Vessel Traffic Service
- Marine accident briefs
- Safer Seas
- Safety Alerts and videos
- Safety Forums
  - Cruise Ship Safety
  - Shared Waterways
- Safety Studies
  - Vessel Traffic Services

# Safety Recommendations

- Most Wanted
  - Mass Transit (ferry) Vessel Safety
  - Distraction in Transportation
  - Medical fitness for duty
- VDR's
- Safety Management Systems
- Fatigue - pilots



# Safety Studies and Special Investigative Reports

- Parasail operations
- VTS



# Marine Accident Brief (MAB)

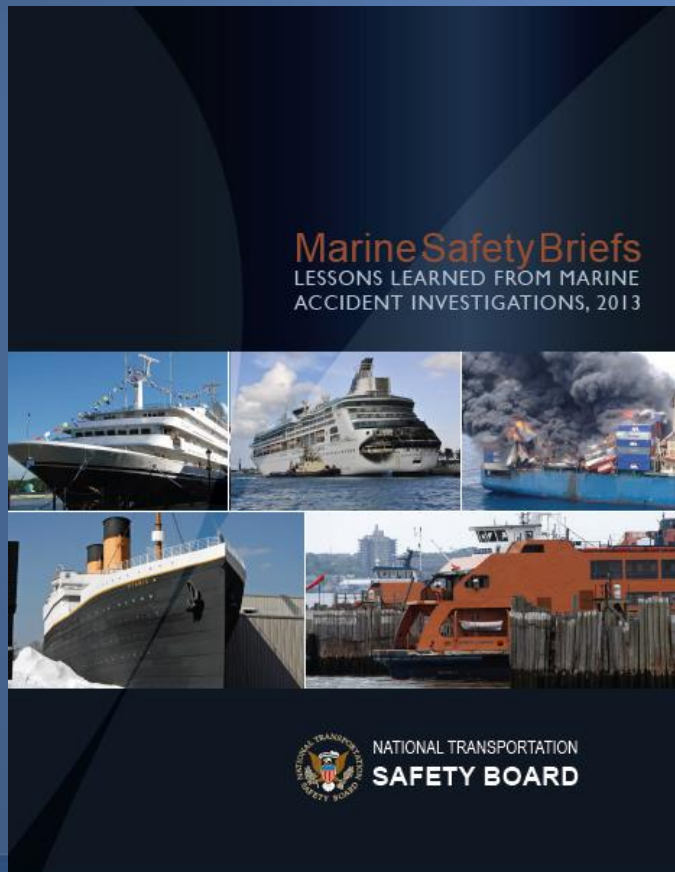


See online reports at  
<http://www.nts.gov/investigations/reports.html>



# New ideas

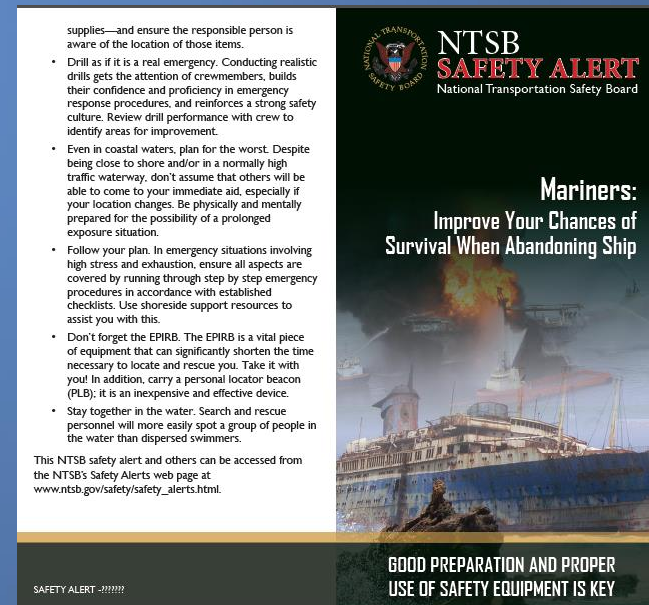
- *Safer Seas* (eBook)





# New ideas

- Safety alert brochures
- Safety alert trading cards
- Short videos



# Getting the safety message out

- Tweets @NTSB
- Blogs
- Press releases
- Interviews (TV, magazines...)
- Outreach (industry events)
- Email distribution (list serve)





# National Transportation Safety Board

[www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov)

[tracy.murrell@nts.gov](mailto:tracy.murrell@nts.gov)