



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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# Working with NTSB in Wake of an Accident

Are you prepared?

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February 13, 2013





NTSB





# The million dollar question?

- Are you prepared to interface with NTSB if there is an accident at your airport?



- Do you understand the party system?
- Who will be your party coordinator?
- Are you familiar with NTSB's rules and practices?



# Two Types of NTSB Investigations



Field Investigations



Go-Team Investigation






# The Party Process

**The NTSB designates parties to the investigation to those organizations that can provide technical expertise.**





# Value of the Party System

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





# Who are parties?

Typically, parties include:

- **FAA (by law)**
- **Air carrier**
- **Airframe manufacturer**
- **Engine manufacturer**
- **Major component manufacturer**
- **Pilot, ATC, maintenance and flight attendant union representatives**
- **Airport Authorities**





# Important Opportunities

- **Party submissions**
- **Party meetings with board members**





# Keeping out of trouble



- Do not speculate on the cause of an accident with the press
- Do not withhold information from the NTSB
- Do not conduct a parallel investigation
- Always plan for and devote the proper resources to the investigation





### NTSB News

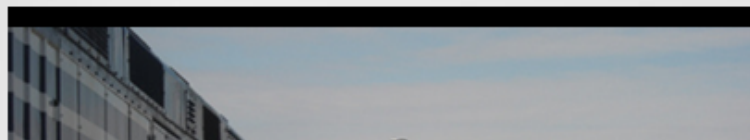
Investigator in Charge Robert Accetta briefs the media about the status of the investigation into the cause of the Feb. 3 fatal bus crash near San Bernardino, California.

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The NTSB is an independent federal

### Photo of the Week



News @ NTSB [RSS](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Email](#)

NTSB is investigating an accident involving a Bell 206 helicopter that crashed near Acton, CA today.  
[yesterday](#) · [reply](#) · [retweet](#) · [favorite](#)

Video of today's 42-minute media briefing on the 1A1 B-787 battery



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INVESTIGATIONS

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ABOUT



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The Investigative Process

Accident Dockets

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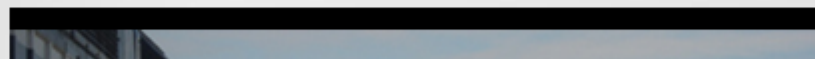
Accident Dockets Safety Recommendations Aviation Accident Database Data & Stats Training Center



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### Photo of the Week



News @ NTSB    

NTSB is investigating an accident involving a Bell 206 helicopter that crashed near Acton, CA today.



[Home](#) > [Accident Investigations](#) The Investigative Process

## THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS AT NTSB

The National Transportation Safety Board was established in 1967 to conduct independent investigations of all civil aviation accidents in the United States and major accidents in the other modes of transportation. It is not part of the Department of Transportation, nor organizationally affiliated with any of DOT's modal agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration. The Safety Board has no regulatory or enforcement powers.

To ensure that Safety Board investigations focus only on improving transportation safety, the Board's analysis of factual information and its determination of probable cause cannot be entered as evidence in a court of law.

### THE NTSB "GO TEAM"

What is the NTSB's "Go Team"? The purpose of the Safety Board's "Go Team" is to conduct investigations of...

- [Cockpit Voice Recorder Handbook.pdf](#)
- [Flight Data Recorder Handbook.pdf](#)

### THE PARTY SYSTEM

The Board investigates about 2,000 aviation accidents and incidents a year, and about 500 accidents in the other modes of transportation - rail, highway, marine and pipeline. With about 400 employees, the Board accomplishes this task by leveraging its resources. One way the Board does this is by designating other organizations or companies as parties to its investigations.

NTSB designates other organizations or corporations as parties to the investigation. Other than the FAA, which by law is automatically designated a party, the NTSB has complete discretion over which organizations it designates as parties to the investigation. Only those organizations or corporations that can provide expertise to the investigation are granted party status and only those persons who can provide the Board with needed technical or specialized expertise are permitted to serve on the investigation; persons in legal or litigation positions are not allowed to be assigned to the investigation. All party members report to the NTSB.

Eventually, each investigative group chairman prepares a factual report and each of the parties in the group is asked to verify the accuracy of the report. The factual reports are placed in the public docket.

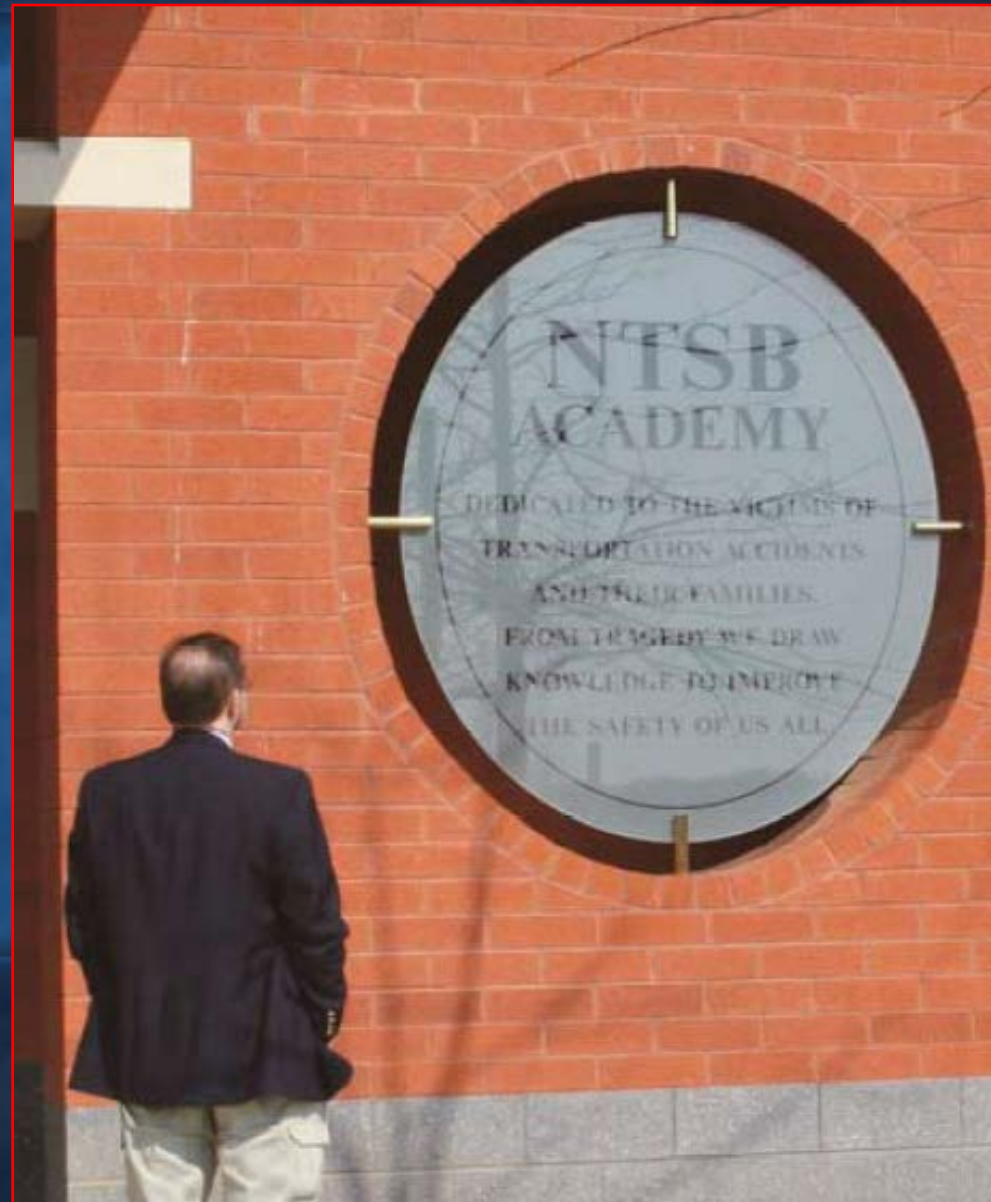
- [NTSB Investigation Party Form](#)





**We all share the same goal**

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





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