



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Marine Safety

Weather policies and decision to transit the harbor

Captain Morgan Turrell

Issues

- Company policy and procedures
- Weather information
- The master
- The decision to cross the harbor

Company Weather Policies



- Reduced visibility
- Lightning in immediate area
- Winds over 15kt or gusts over 35kt

Communicating the Policy

- Standing instructions
- Communication of policies



Company Weather Monitoring



- Shore based computer monitoring
- Senior master on the water
- The master

The Master

- Experienced in company operations
- Checked the weather
- Conflicting weather cues

Nearby Weather Conditions



Courtesy A. Acosta

NTSB



Decision to Cross the Harbor

PRO

- Previous operating experience
- Weather forecast
- Past company information

CON

- Visible conditions deteriorating
- Precipitation
- Winds

Human Factors in Decision

- Dynamic situation
- Commitment to a course of action
- Reinforced cues from office weather report

Weather Information

- Critical need for up to date information
- Choice of weather information providers
- Timeliness of information

Post-accident Changes

- Weather restrictions for vessels
- Equipped all boats with NOAA alert radios



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