



**National
Transportation
Safety Board**

Safety Culture and Safety Management Systems

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Safety Culture

- Comprehensive views and practices that affect worker protection programs
- Applies to every aspect of work environment
- Relies on commitment and accountability at every level in the organization.

Safety Shortcomings

- Inadequate job briefings
- Poor hazard recognition and mitigation
- Gaps in regulatory oversight

Safety Management Systems

- NTSB has advocated SMS programs that include:
 - Safety policies
 - Safety risk management
 - Safety assurance
 - Safety promotion
 - Safety resource allocation

Methodologies for Hazard Recognition

- Predictive: Identification of hazards before a task begins
- Proactive: Analysis of existing situations
- Reactive: Analysis of past outcomes or events

Hazard Identification and Training

- Identification of hazards before work begins
- Job briefings communicate hazards and their mitigation
- Safety promotion through training and education are vital to SMS programs

Peer-to-Peer Safety Responsibility

- Peer-to peer responsibility seeks hazard identification in real time
- Had work crew questioned safety of tasks or work plans, fatality may not have occurred
- Coworkers must ensure safety

Employee Participation

- Long history of employee participation through unions in investigations
- When involved in an accident, a union employee's union is offered party status
- No union participation in accident investigations of railroad employees by FRA and FTA



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