



National Transportation Safety Board

NTSB Overview and Meteorological Evaluation Tower (MET) Safety Issues

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NTSB Mandate

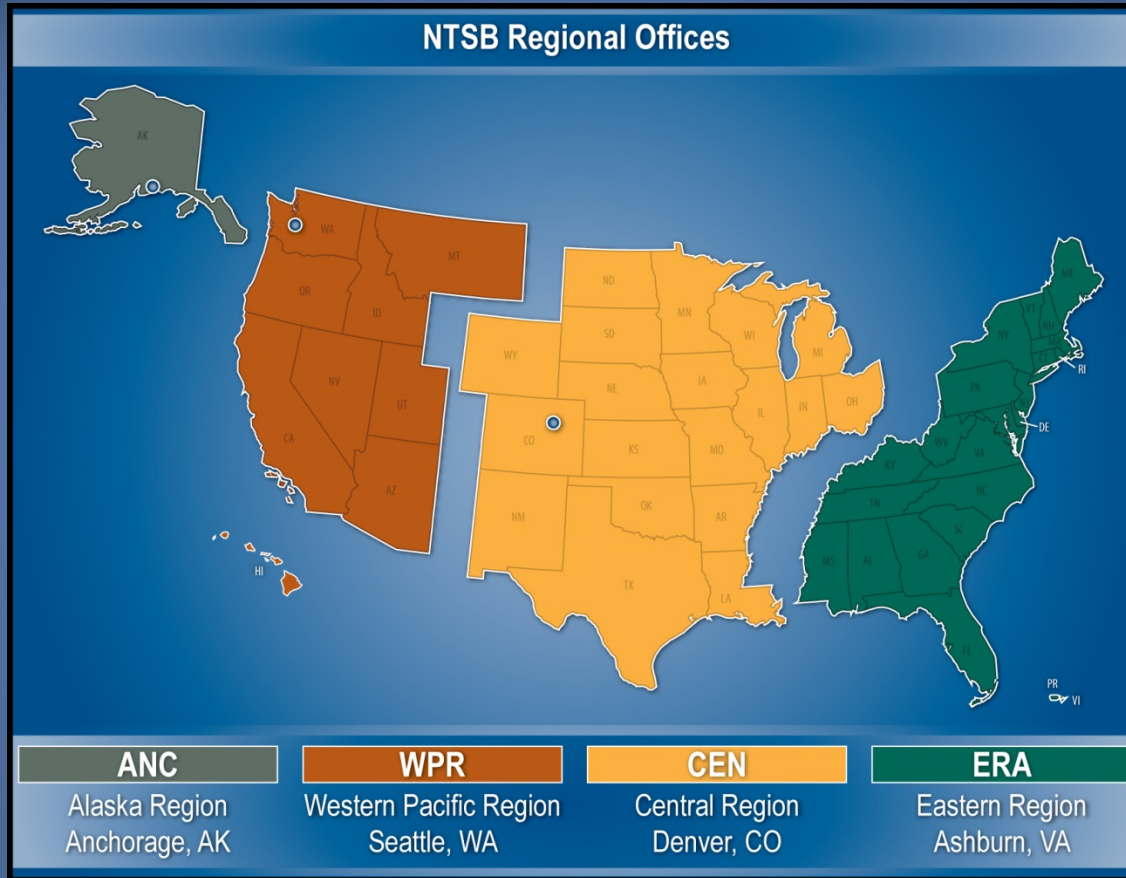
- Charged by Congress to investigate every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation— rail, highway, marine, and pipeline— to determine probable cause and issue safety recommendations
- Also provided the opportunity to investigate US designated/manufactured aircraft and engines that are involved in accidents in foreign countries

NTSB Structure

- The Board
 - Chairman
 - Vice Chairman
 - 3 Members
- Multi Mode
 - Aviation
 - Railroad
 - Highway
 - Marine
 - Pipeline and Hazardous Materials



Office Locations



Products of the NTSB

- Preliminary Report (within 5 business days)
- Factual Report (6-12 months)
- Probable Cause (1 - 2 months following the factual report)
- Safety Alerts (address broad issues and provide guidance)
- Safety Recommendations (over 11,600 formal recommendations in all modes of transportation have been issued)

Safety Recommendation

- Address a specific issue
- Specify how to correct situation
- Letters sent to organizations best able to address the safety issue
- Formal correspondence
- Recommendation closure

Meteorological Evaluation Towers (METs)



MET Overview

- Evaluate wind data
- Many times less than 200 feet
- Minimal ground footprint
- Some states require registration/marketing
- FAA guidance
- NTSB Safety Recommendations



METs Installed



NTSB

MET Safety Alert

- Issued March 2011
- Provides information on dangers of METs
- Notes resources available to pilots for additional information



MET Safety Recommendations

- Issued March 2013
 - American Wind Energy Association
 - FAA
 - States and Territories
 - DOI, USDA, and DOD



AWEA MET Safety Recommendations

- Revise the Wind Energy Siting Handbook to clearly indicate the hazards that meteorological evaluation towers (MET) pose to low-altitude aviation operations and encourage voluntarily marking them to increase their visibility by reference to Advisory Circular 70/7460-1, “Obstruction Marking and Lighting.”
- Inform your members about the circumstances of the airplane accidents that have occurred in connection with the presence of meteorological evaluation towers (MET) and emphasize the importance of understanding the aviation safety hazards associated with METs when erecting them.



FAA MET Safety Recommendations

- Amend 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 77 to require that all meteorological evaluation towers be registered, marked, and—where feasible—lighted.
- Create and maintain a publicly accessible national database for the required registration of all meteorological evaluation towers.



DOI, USDA, and DOD MET Safety Recommendation

- As part of your organization's review and approval of applications to build meteorological evaluation towers, provide a copy or direct applicants to Advisory Circular 70/7460-1, "Obstruction Marking and Lighting."



States and Territories MET Safety Recommendation

- Enact legislation requiring that meteorological evaluation towers erected in your state or territory are marked and registered in a directory.



Contact Information

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NTSB



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