



Railroad Safety Advisory Committee



Critical Incident Working Group Update

The 45th Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

December 8, 2011
Washington, DC



Critical Incident WG Update



Task No. 09-02: Critical Incident Stress Programs

Purpose: To provide advice regarding development of implementing regulations for Critical Incident Stress Plans as required by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008.



Critical Incident WG Update



Task No. 09-02: Critical Incident Stress Programs

Description:

- Define “critical incident.”
 - Review data, literature, and standards of practice concerning critical incident programs to determine appropriate action when a railroad employee is involved in or directly witnesses a critical incident.
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Critical Incident WG Update



Task No. 09-02: Critical Incident Stress Programs

Description (Continued):

- Review any evaluation studies available for existing railroad critical incident programs.
 - Describe program elements appropriate in the rail environment.
 - Provide a template of a suitable plan.
 - Assist in the preparation of an NPRM.
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Task No. 09-02: Critical Incident Stress Programs

- This task was accepted by the RSAC on September 10, 2009, and was initially assigned to the Medical Standards Working Group.
 - Given the aggressive timeline for completion of this task, a Critical Incident Working Group (WG) was established and the task statement was amended to reassign the task to this newly established WG in April 2011.
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Task No. 09-02: Critical Incident Stress Programs

WG Activities and Progress:

- The first WG meeting was held on June 24, 2011, allowing time for delivery of a “Draft FRA Grant Report” that was anticipated to contain essential background information directly relevant to the task including a review of existing definitions, literature, practices, and a recommended critical incident definition and program elements.
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Task No. 09-02: Critical Incident Stress Programs

WG Activities and Progress (Continued):

- Follow-on meetings were held on September 8–9, 2011, and October 11–12, 2011.
 - Consensus has been reached on a definition for “critical incident.”
 - Draft regulation text has been prepared and distributed to WG members for review and comment.
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Task No. 09-02: Critical Incident Stress Programs

WG Activities and Progress (Continued):

- The next WG meeting is scheduled to be held on December 13–14, 2011, in Washington, DC.
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Thank you for your attention.
