



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee  
Task Statement:  
Critical Incident Programs**

**Task No.:** 09-02

**Date initially presented to the RSAC:** September 10, 2009

**Purpose:**

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

**Description:**

- Define what a “critical incident” is that requires a response.
- Review available 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.
- Review any evaluation studies available for existing railroad critical incident programs.
- Describe program elements appropriate for the rail environment, including those requirements set forth in the Act.
- Provide an example of a suitable plan (template).
- Assist in the preparation of a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**Issues requiring specific report:**

- At the discretion of the Working Group.

**Source:**

Section 410, Division A, Public Law No. 110-432.

**Refer to/establish following working group:** Critical Incident Working Group

**Target Dates:**

Report NPRM by December of 2011.

**Disposition:** Accepted  
: Revised

**Date:** September 10, 2009  
: May 20, 2011