

CAWG Report

Findings & Recommendations



September 21, 2006

CAWG Overview

- FRA letter June 2002 proposes a collision study to identify effective measures to prevent HF caused train accidents
 - Identify trends, patterns, and best practices
 - Report findings
 - Formulate data-based recommendations if possible
- First Meeting in July 2002

CAWG Process

- Select cases
- Review and discuss each case
- Analyze cases for important trends and commonalities
- Make findings and recommendations where appropriate

CAWG Case Section

FRA Investigated Cases

- Collision cases from 1997 through 2002
- Mainline operations only
- Freight trains with at least two crew members
- Passenger trains
- 310 cases met criteria
 - FRA investigated 99 – 32 percent
 - 12 of 99 cases investigated involved passenger trains – 12 percent

CAWG Case Section

- 65 of the 99 cases investigated by FRA met the CAWG selection criteria
- Train must have exceeded authority:
 - Passed a stop signal
 - Failed to comply with restricted speed
 - Entered territory without train order, track warrant, or direct traffic control authority

CAWG: Case by Case Review

- Each case assigned to an individual CAWG member
- CAWG member presented case to Group
- Information about the case recorded in a database:
 - Location
 - Time
 - Conditions
 - Train information
 - Employee information
 - Locomotive information
 - Other information
- Group discussion about case
- Reach Group consensus on possible contributing factors and other issues

CAWG: Analysis

- Analysis:
 - Quality check of the data
 - Search for important trends and common themes
 - Possible contributing factors
 - Crew experience
 - Crew alertness
 - Method of operations
 - Crashworthiness
 - Exiting locomotives

CAWG: Findings and Recommendations

- Eight findings and recommendations
 - All based on consensus agreement
 - Data driven and factual
- CAWG report contains other areas of interest for collision prevention
- Findings provide railroad industry with opportunity to review its safety practices

CAWG: Findings and Recommendations

- In order presented in CAWG Report:
 - Crew Composition and Experience
 - Alertness
 - Intra-crew Communications
 - High-Risk Holiday Periods
 - End of Train Devices: 49 CFR Part 232, Subpart E
 - Crashworthiness
 - Operating Methods
 - Collision Investigation and Reporting

Conclusions

- CAWG urges:
 - Awareness and action on its findings
 - Additional analysis and research of findings and other related issues
 - Updating of CAWG Database. Additional cases may result in new findings
- Electronic Version of the CAWG Report is available on FRA website at:
<http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/1704>