



Review of Significant Incidents and Close Calls in Human Spaceflight from a Human Factors Perspective

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Agenda

- Significant Incidents in Human Spaceflight Overview
- Assumptions and description of analysis of Significant Incidents Tool
- Human Factors Classification
- Recommendations for Significant Incidents and Preventive Measures
- Government Documents Review
- Next Steps
- Acknowledgments and References

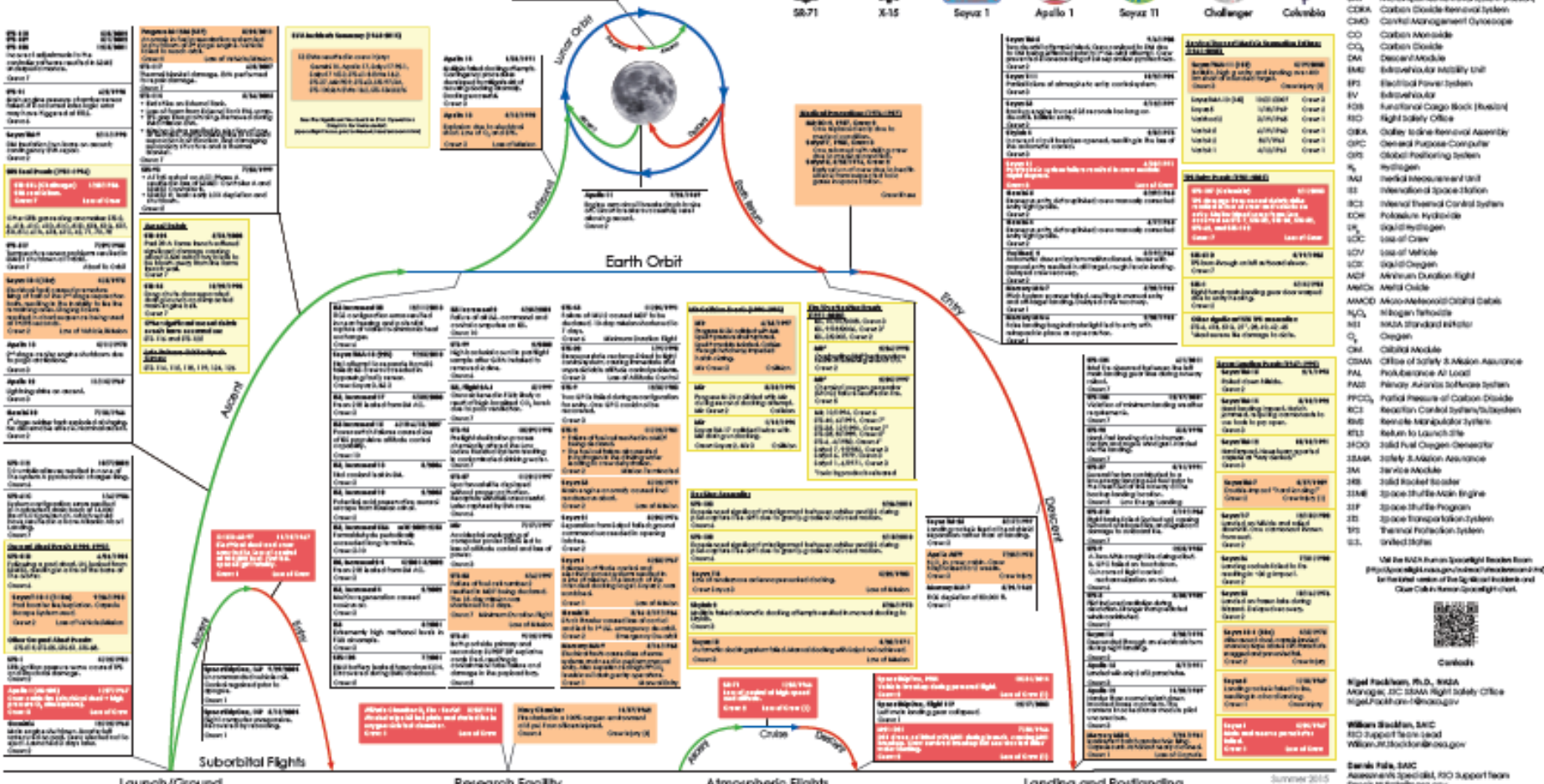


Significant Incidents and Close Calls in Human Spaceflight

A Product of the JSC S&MA Flight Safety Office

Legend

- Incident** (Red box)
- Close Call** (Yellow box)
- Incident and Close Call** (Green box)



The Significant Incidents and Close Calls in Human Spaceflight graphic is primarily focused on human spaceflight incidents occurring with a crew aboard a space vehicle. It includes suborbital, orbital, and lunar missions. Selected non-spaceflight and crewed events are included if they have strong relevance to human spaceflight. For instance, the loss of the uncrewed Progress M7-1 is included because it has launch vehicle commonality with the crewed Soyuz missions. The attitude chamber oxygen fire in Rada preceded the U.S. Navy oxygen chamber fire and the Apollo 1 fire, which occurred under similar circumstances. The SR-71 accident is the highest and fastest vehicle backup on record.

This document is a work in progress. It is continually under review and frequently updated. Please direct comments and questions to the JSC S&MA Flight Safety Office.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

- AC: Air Controller
- AFU: Auxiliary Power Unit
- BMF: Mission/Performance Based System (Status)
- CDRA: Carbon Dioxide Removal System
- CMO: Crew Management Overlay
- CO: Carbon Monoxide
- CO₂: Carbon Dioxide
- DA: Descent Ascent
- EMU: Extravehicular Mobility Unit
- EPS: Electrical Power System
- EV: Extravehicular
- FGB: Functional Cargo Block (Roster)
- RO: Flight Safety Office
- OBA: Outfit to Air Retrieval Agency
- OFC: Ordeal Purpose Computer
- OPS: Global Positioning System
- H: Hydrogen
- MSI: Medical Measurement Unit
- ISS: International Space Station
- BCE: Russian Thermal Control System
- DOK: Polonium Hydride
- SH: Solid Hydrogen
- SOC: Site of Crew
- SOV: Site of Vehicle
- SOE: Solid Rocket Engine
- ACF: American Duration Flight
- AMC: Astronaut
- AMC/D: Mission/Performance Based System
- NLD: NASA Standard
- MI: NASA Standard
- CM: Command Module
- CSMA: Office of Safety & Mission Assurance
- PAL: Performance At Load
- PAO: Payload Avionics Software System
- PPCO: Partial Pressure of Carbon Dioxide
- RCS: Reaction Control System/Thrusters
- RSC: Remote Sensing/Navigation System
- RLS: Return to Launch Site
- 24CO: Solid Fuel Oxygen Generator
- 25AA: Safety & Mission Assurance
- 26A: Zero-Axis Ascent
- 28B: Solid Rocket Booster
- 29ME: Space Shuttle Main Engine
- 31F: Space Shuttle Position System
- 32: Space Transportation System
- 37S: Thermal Protection System
- 37L: Undeveloped

Other:

- Use the NASA Human Spaceflight Roster from <http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/human-spaceflight-roster>
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Analysis of Significant Incidents in Human Spaceflight Tool



Analysis of Significant Incidents in Human Spaceflight Overview



Objectives:

- To perform a deep-dive analysis of significant incidents
- Classify them by human factors and human error during flight operations
- Verify that requirements address those incidents in current governing documents

Assumptions:

- Although everything can be contributed to human error at some point, this classification focuses on human error at the operational level, and whether it was a design-induced error
- Human error considered was for cases when the errors led to an incident/close call
- This analysis does not account for human error having its source in organizational factors, processes, etc.
- Medical evacuations and EVA incidents were excluded from analysis



Human Factors Classification

Product:

Human Factors Classification of Significant Incidents and Close Calls in Human Spaceflight Tool divided into 6 tabs

Project: Review of "Significant Incidents and Close Calls in Human Spaceflight" Based on a Human Factors Perspective

*should be changed to specify "design-induced error" or "operational error" (see Recommendations 4 Tool Updates tab)

Incident Description				Human Errors (Classification)				Human Factors Design		
Mission	Date	Type	Short Description	Flagged as Human Error? (at operational level)*	Need Change?	Habitability and Human Factors	Design-induced error (interfaces) or Operational error (human error)?	Human errors at operational level (crew & ground control): primary cause or contributing factor?	Human factors design: primary cause or contributing factor?	Poor human factors design decisions leading to error-prone system, or didn't facilitate crew making right choices
STS-108 STS-109 STS-110	12/5/2001 3/1/2002 4/8/2002		SSME unperformance due to incorrect adjustments to controller SW	Yes	No	Yes	Design and Operational	Contributing factor	Primary cause	- Software deficiency, yet this can be traced back to the development of the SW which was done by humans, how far back do we go? - Was there a buddy system (colleague doublechecking) in place during the first correction of high bias (for STS-108)? There should have been another person/group that verified the adjustment of the coefficient in the equation. - Going forward to STS-109, and STS-110 with resolving the issue the first time
Attitude Chamber O2 fire - Soviet	3/23/1961	Loss of crew	alcohol wipe hit hot plate and started fire	Yes	No	Yes	Operational	Primary cause	N/A	Training on both opening the hatch when pressurized and risks for disposing cotton wool soaked in alcohol didn't facilitate crew making right choices If it was anticipated loss of comm for some time, the activity could have been scheduled for another time where total comm was available. Or if telemetry was inadvertently lost there should have been a verification step to

Project Summary | Assumptions | **Classification** | To add - SpaceShip 2 | To add - EVA 23 | Recommendations 4 Tool Updates | Reco 4 Practitioner's Guide

[Link to excel to show real-time](#)



Sections of Human Factors Classification

- Incident Description
- Human Errors (Classification)
- Human Factors Design
- HSI Discipline Responsible
- Recommendations
- Review of Documents

HSI Discipline Responsible / Other Causes		Recommendations		Review of Documents			
NASA HSI domains that incident relates to (behavioral and medical were added)	Other causes synergistic in causing the failure?	Recommended updates for interactive tool	What could have been done during design/operational/training phase to prevent incident? (lessons learned for future projects)	NASA-STD-3001 Volume 2	Handbook NASA/SP-2010-3407	MPCV 70024 HSR	CCT-REQ-1130
Training	Misinterpretation of deficiencies in SW V&V processes. Organizational structure (how come the processes were not understood correctly if they are standard processes?). Group thinking (how come noone found/fixed the error the first time it was observed in STS-108).	Complete description paragraph on slide 9 Roward issue description to reflect misinterpretation of deficiencies in flight SW V&V process from ground SEs	Design: Minimize errors during software development to prevent possible deficiencies during missions Operational: Go through verification process by another person or group (independent verification testing) to ensure correct adjustments are made (mathematical calculations, and coefficients) Training: Ensure this is part of the processes and that it is understood by all involved (training) All: If error is encountered in first mission or P/P, do not move forward until source of error and fix is in place risks associated with disposal of medical objects containing chemicals and disposal in general During training phase, ensure crewmembers know emergency regulations with respect to reducing fires in case there is one.	10.7.3.12 Software System Recovery	5.7.4.2.5 Predictors of Workload: Summary has reference to two-crew operations but doesn't specify the buddy system aspect prior to execution	[HS7010A] Two-Crew Operations	3.8.5.1.4 Tolerate Inadvertent Action during Failure
Medical System Safety Habitability and Environment Training	N/A	No		7.5.6 Medical Equipment Disposal [V2 7048] refers to sharp elements.	7.9.2 General Considerations 7.9.4.1 Hazardous Waste (table shows chemical hazard) 7.9.5 Containment, Handling, and Labeling	HS6022 (talks specifically to the use of wipes)	3.10.17.1 Trash Management Appendix J: Contamination Clear Kit
System Safety Training (ground control)	Lack of systems knowledge on how a change on a subsystem (telemetry scheduled, verification of command execution) could affect other parts of the system "Lack of onboard verification procedures left this condition undetected by the Mission Control Center and flight crew" Interfaces in software. Communication space to ground: either a crewmember or ground control could have served as the	Different category, error was made because the initial system didn't work with them (now the system was made by humans so can't really tell)	Operational: verification step to ensure the command was sent and received/executed prior to continuing with next step. Design: The software should have a confirmation popout	10.4.5.1 Command Confirmation [V2 10080]	10.2.8 Inadvertent Operation 10.6.2.7.2 Inadvertent Operation 5.7.4.2.5 Predictors of Workload: Summary has reference to two-crew operations but doesn't	HS7055 Command Feedback	3.8.5.1.2 Tolerate Inadvertent Action 3.10.4.7 Protect for Inadvertent Operation

Full list available in the paper



Government Documents Review

- NASA-STD-3000 Man Systems Integration Standards (1985)
 - Used by Shuttle and ISS programs
- NASA-STD-3001 Space Flight Human Systems Standards:
 - Volume 1 focuses on Crew Health
 - Volume 2 focuses on Human Factors, Habitability & Environmental Health
- NASA/SP-2010-3407 Human Integration Design Handbook
 - Details different HSI requirements developed from lessons learned in past human spaceflight missions.
 - Process is required by NPR 8705.2B Human-Rating Requirements for Space Systems, and NPR 7120.11 Health & Medical Technical Authority Implementation
- MPCV 70024 Human Systems Integration Requirements (HSIR)
 - Orion has addressed human errors in the HS7066 Crew Interface Usability, HS7080 Crew Cognitive Workload, and HS7003 Handling Qualities.
- NASA Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFACS)
 - Led by NASA's Mishap Program Working Group.

Specific Program Documents Reviewed for Analysis:
NASA-STD-3001 Volume 2 SP-2010-3407 Handbook
MPCV 70024 HSIR CCT-REQ-1130

Example of Analysis Results: Apollo ASTP: 7/24/2975, Crew injury



- Earth Landing System Auto/Manual Switch to Auto
- Not Flagged as Human Error
- Proposed to change to "Yes"
 - Design-induced (interfaces) – primary cause, and
 - operational error (human error) – contributing factor
- Poor human factors design decision leading to error-prone system or not facilitating crew making the right choices:
 - Spacecraft displays didn't have an obvious visual cue for the pilot to realize that he was still operating in manual mode
 - Procedures may have not had a step for commander to remind pilot to switch back to auto
- **NASA HSI Domains:**
 - Human Factors Engineering, Safety, Training, Operations Resources
- **Causes synergistic in causing failure:**
 - Displays may have not account with good visual cue to alert pilot of current state

Example of Analysis Results: Apollo ASTP: 7/24/2975, Crew injury



- **Recommended Updates for Interactive Tool:**

Divide description in 3 parts: Brief description of incident, Reason/causes/consequences, and Solutions

- **What could have been done during design/operational/training phase to prevent incident?**

Procedures to include buddy system (confirmation by fellow crewmember) for callout to change to auto/manual as needed

Have redundant systems to human, e.g. alarms, colors in text or activation of flashing mode

- **Recommendation for all documents:**

Add a requirement that explicitly explains that second crewmember should acknowledge verbally prior to execution of first crewmember.

HSIR: it has a requirement for manual control (HS7004 Manual Control) but doesn't specify it is required when automation is used, like in the other docs

Example of Analysis Results: Apollo ASTP: 7/24/2975, Crew injury



Review of Documents:

- NASA-STD-3001 Volume 2: *Needs additional requirement*
10.7.3.12 Software System Recovery,
10.6.1.5 Automation Levels [V2 10104]
 - SP-2010-3407: *Needs additional requirement*
10.10.2.4 Levels of Automation
 - MPCV 70024 HSIR: *Needs additional requirement*
HS7010A Two-Crew Operations, HS7004 Manual Control
 - CCT-REQ-1130: *Needs additional requirement*
3.8.5.1.4 Tolerate Inadvertent Action during Failure, 3.2.6.1
Manually Override Software, 4.3.2.6.1 Manually Override Software
- Recommendation for two-crew operations: Add a separate requirement that states commands/actions should be confirmed verbally by fellow crewmember (or ground control) before executing*



Recommendations for Tool

- For each incident, it would be good to divide the description in 3 parts:
 - Brief description of incident
 - Reason/causes/consequences
 - Solutions (methods in place resulting from incident investigations, if any)
- Recommend dividing classifications in Main Page into three sections:
 - **Classification 1 - Incidents**
Keep classification for:
 - Loss of Crew
 - Crew Injuries
 - Related or Recurring EventsAdd: Close Calls
 - **Classification 2 - Various**
Make another box or section (maybe by color) of second classification:
 - Space Vehicles
 - Country (not sure you need this but ok)
 - Systems (see comment 3, maybe rename to "technical system")
 - **Classification 3 - Human Factors**
Make another classification just for Human Factors Errors (maybe it's called HSI) [also distinguish from other classifications by color or box]:
Suggested Classification:
 - Human Factors Design-Induced Errors
 - Operational Errors/Factors
 - Design Errors/Factors
 - Organizational Errors/Factors

[Full list of recommendations available in the paper](#)



Next Steps

- Share recommendations for tool updates with Safety and Mission Assurance group
- Compare information with mishap reports in:
 - NASA Lessons Learned Database (currently being reorganized)
 - NASA Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFCAS)
- Discuss topics in Standards meeting (assess if issues are/should be addressed as requirements in governing documents or in procedures at the operational level)
- Discuss with other Center organizations



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- Habitability and Human Factors Branch
- Human Health and Performance Directorate
- Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate

Thank you for your attention!

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